Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 40:

The Stone



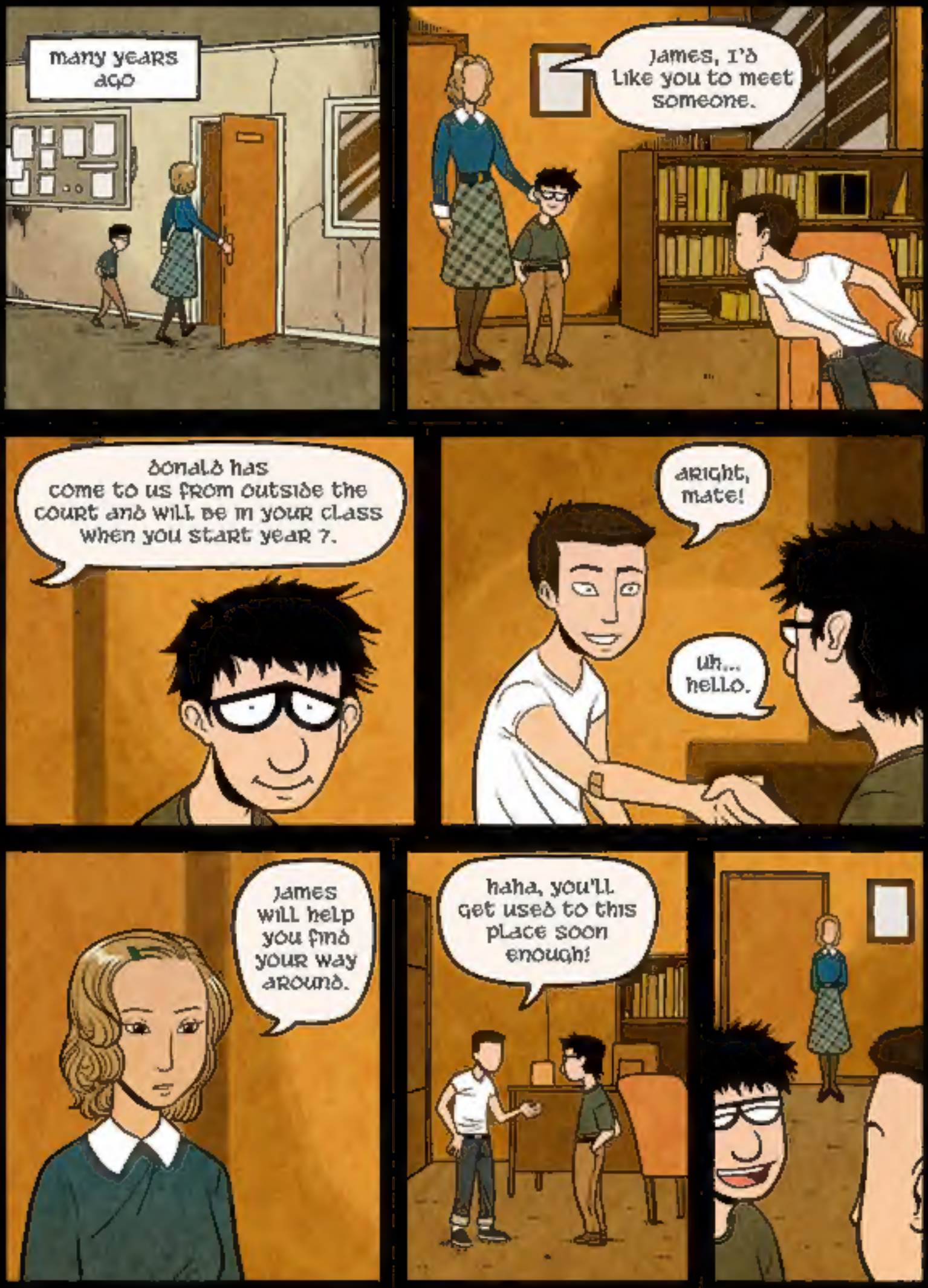

What are you?


the previous day
you have my recommendation, jonathan.
she is the clear choice.
very well. we will choose a date to announce the next medium.


a week ago


years ago

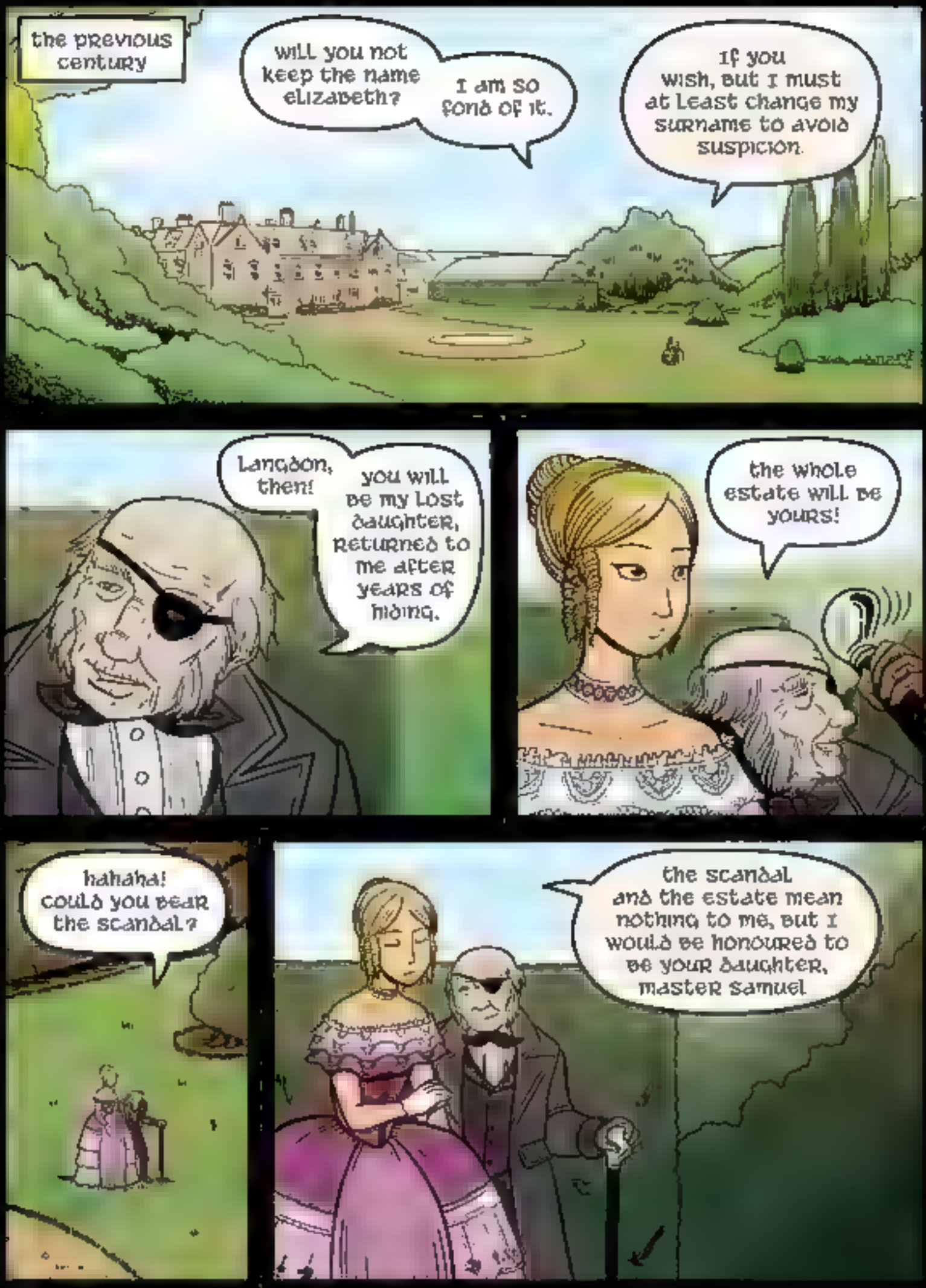

I just don't get it... how could she pick him over me?
several years ago
what could surma possibly see in someone like tony?
is there something wrong with me?
I will always be here for you, james.

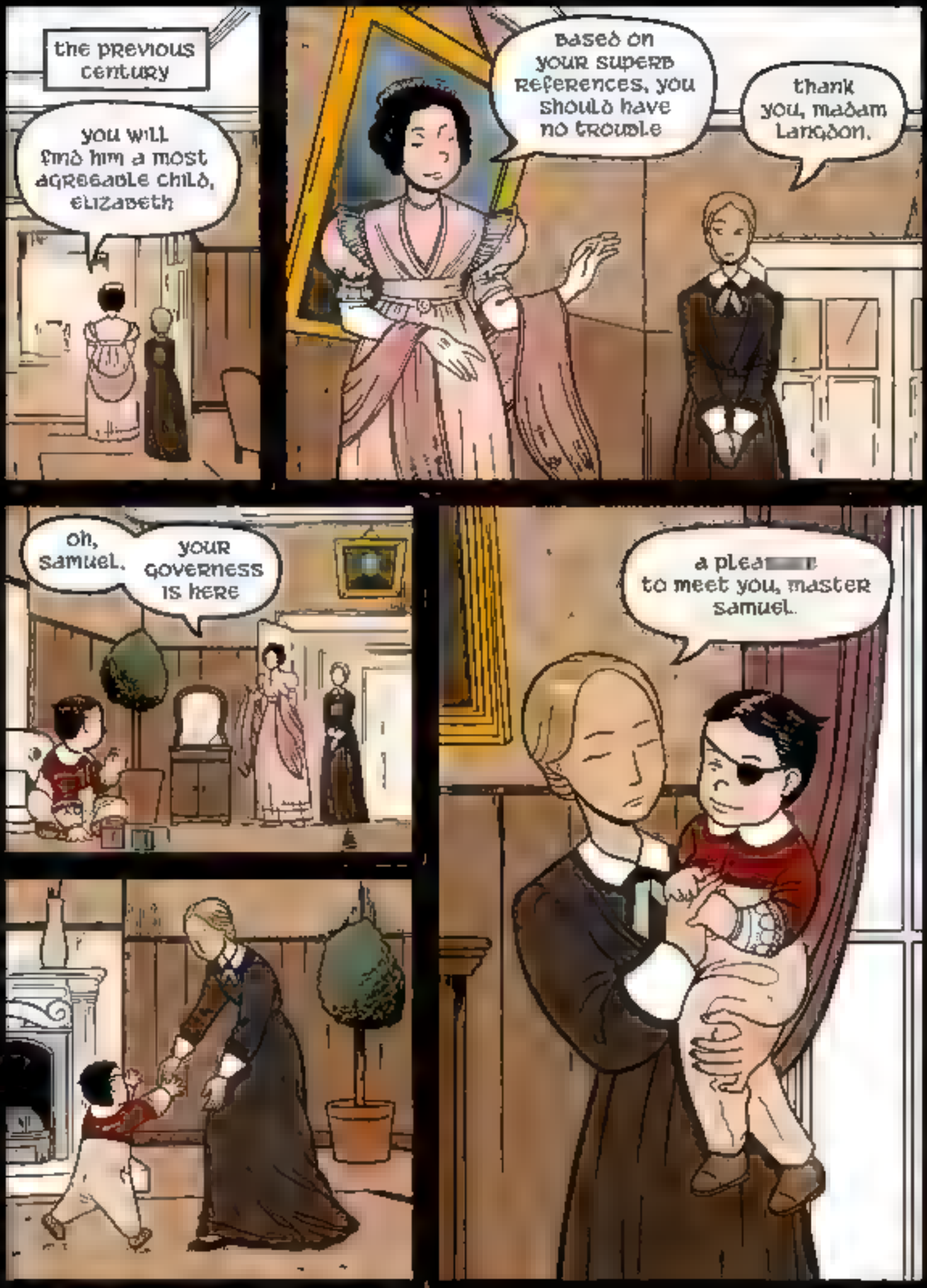

many years ago
James, I'd like you to meet someone.
Donald has come to us from outside the court and will be in your class when you start year 7.
aright, mate!
uh... hello.
James will help you find your way around.
haha, you'll get used to this place soon enough!

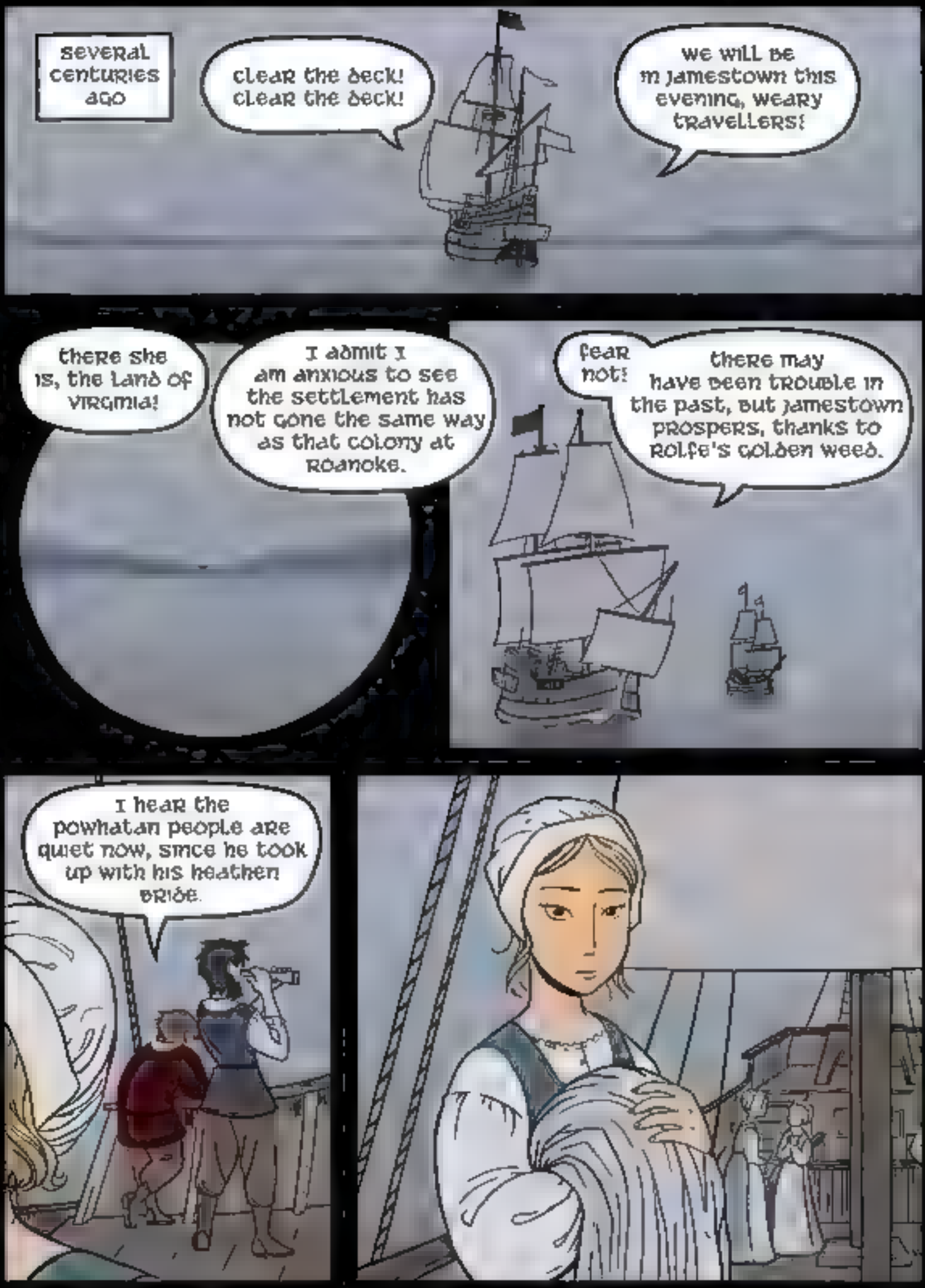

decades ago
wave to your parents, james.
do not worry, they will visit you often.
yes, your new home at gunnerkrigg court.
am I goin' to my new home now, miss jones?

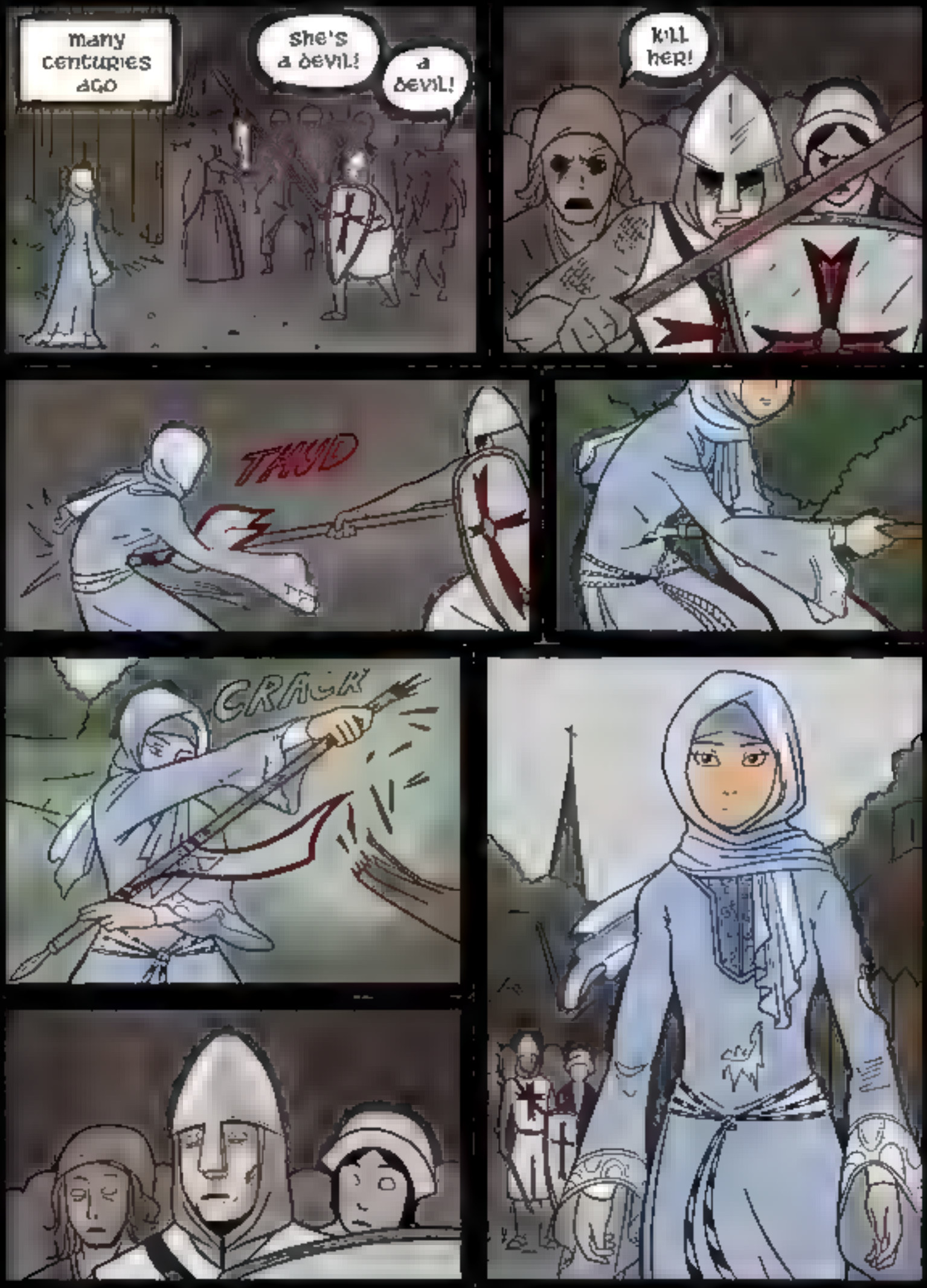

several decades ago
emma! oh thank the lord! are you hurt?
I am unharmed. was anyone-
emma!
it's mister jones, he's... he's...
he's askin' for you, em'...
edward...
emma... will you take my name?
I will, edward...
for as long as I can.

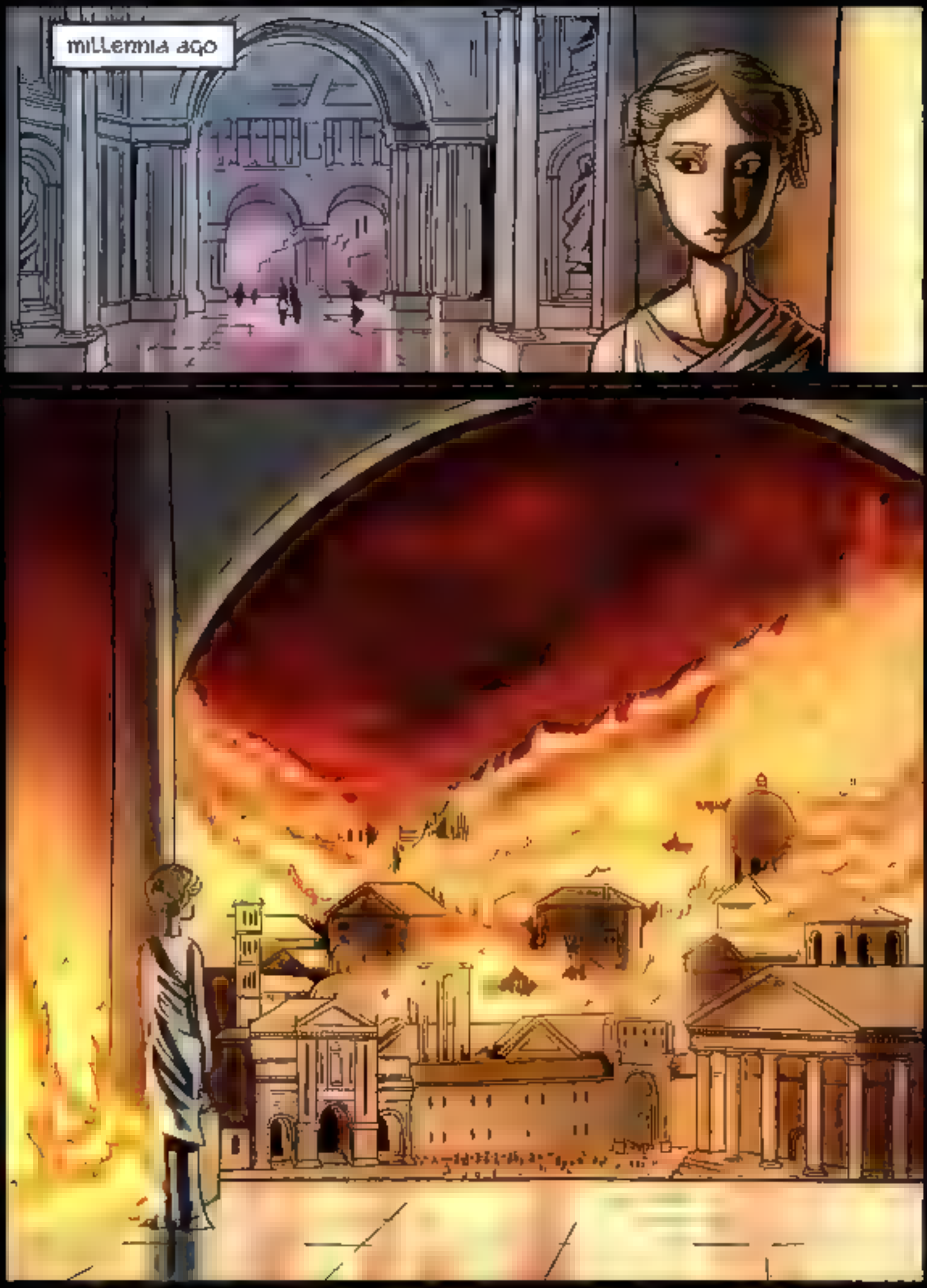

many decades ago
THUD THUD
CRASH
here she is, officers!
It is clear to see why the so called Lady Elizabeth remains hidden from sight.
what should be the old heiress to the Langdon estate is nothing more than the young usurper you see before you!
come along with us now, miss. we 'ave some questions for you.

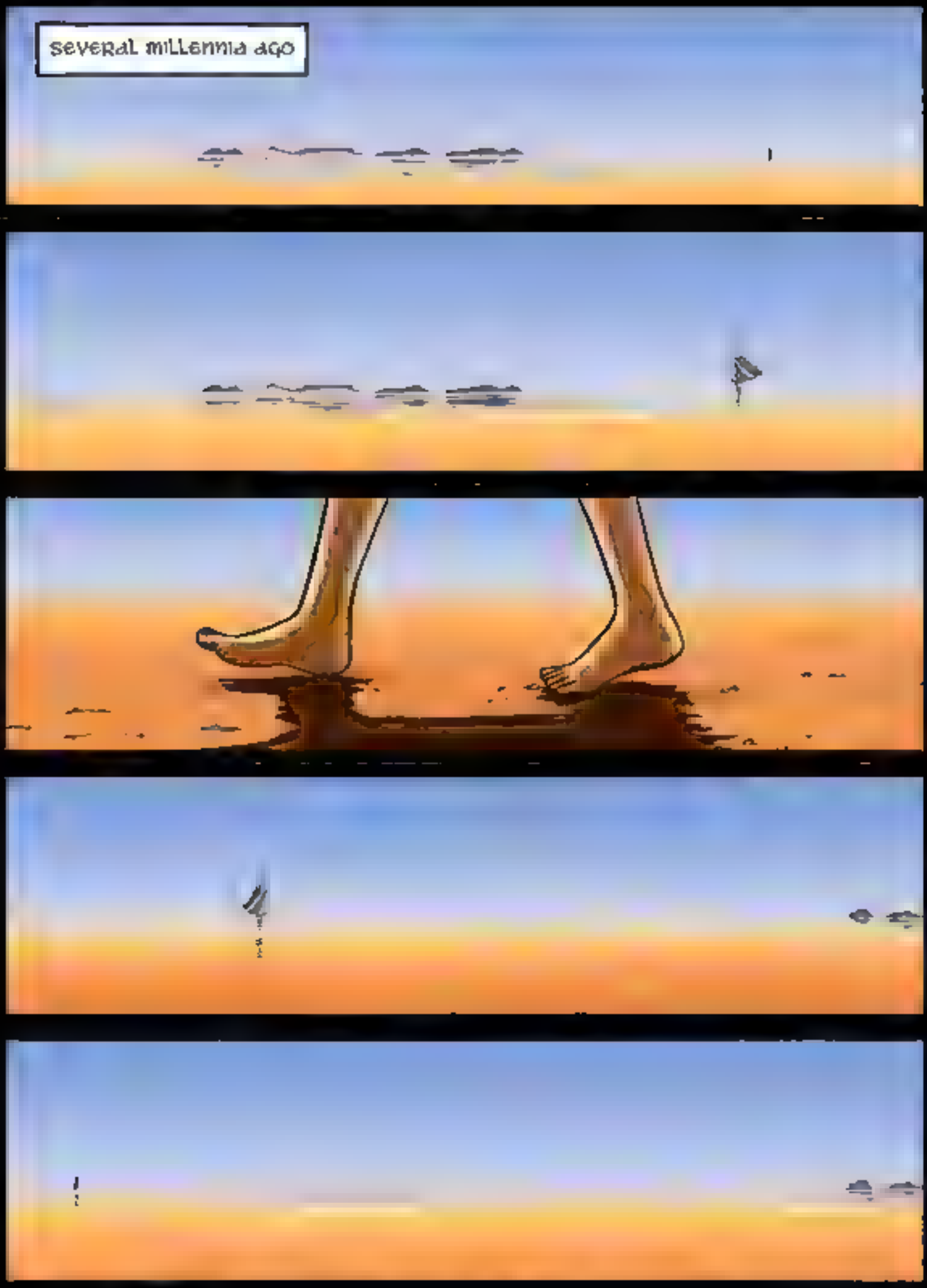

the previous century
will you not keep the name elizabeth?
I am so fond of it.
If you wish, but I must at least change my surname to avoid suspicion.
Langdon, then!
you will be my lost daughter, returned to me after years of hiding.
the whole estate will be yours!
hahaha! could you bear the scandal?
the scandal and the estate mean nothing to me, but I would be honoured to be your daughter, master samuel


the previous century
you will find him a most agreeable child, elizabeth
based on your superb references, you should have no trouble
thank you, madam langdon.
oh, samuel. your governess is here
a plea[redacted] to meet you, master samuel.


several centuries ago
clear the deck! clear the deck!
we will be in jamestown this evening, weary travellers!
there she is, the land of virginia!
I admit I am anxious to see the settlement has not gone the same way as that colony at roanoke.
fear not!
there may have been trouble in the past, but jamestown prospers, thanks to rolfe's golden weed.
I hear the powhatan people are quiet now, since he took up with his heathen bride.

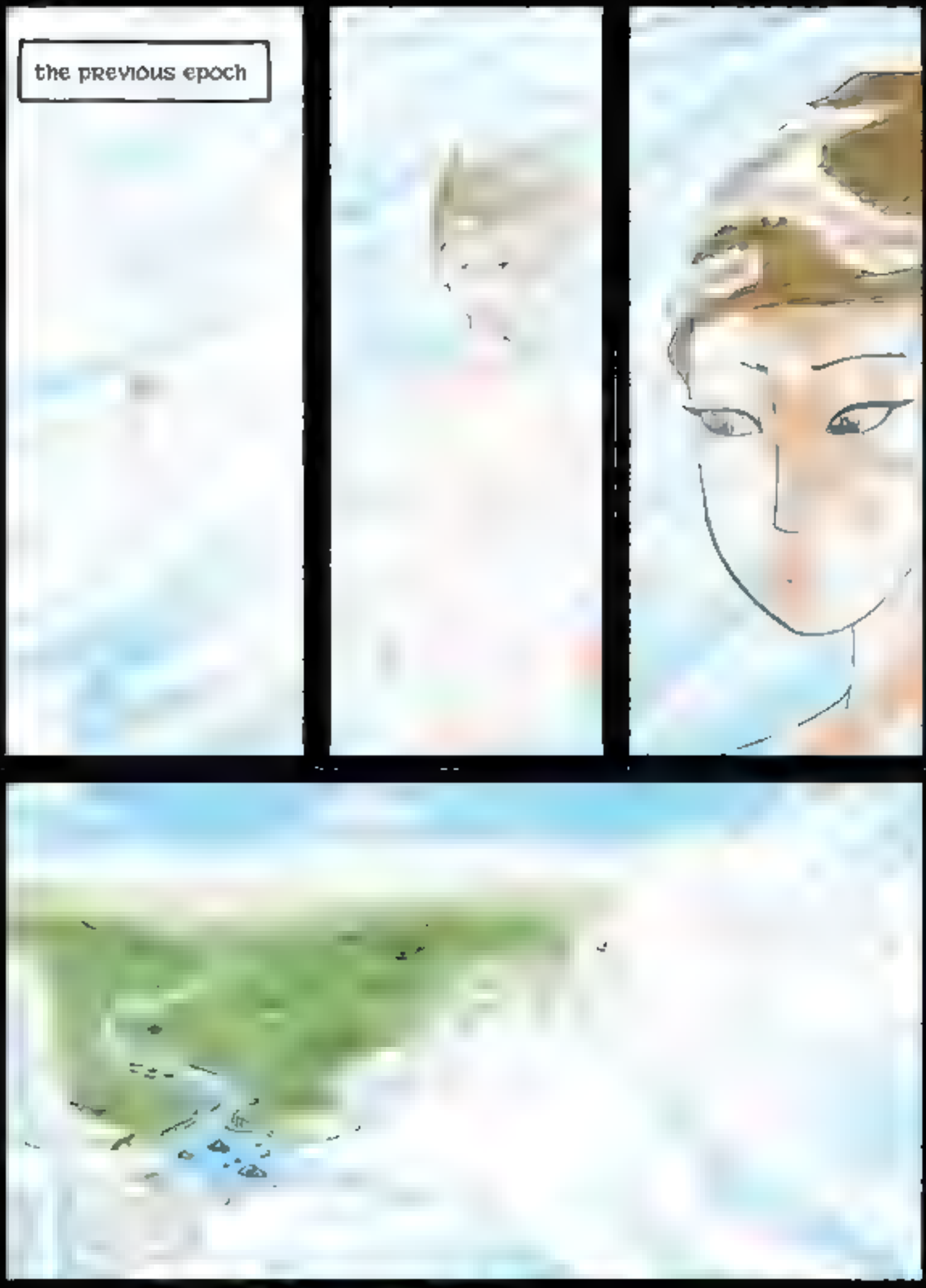

many centuries ago
she's a devil!
a devil!
kill her!
THUD
CRACK

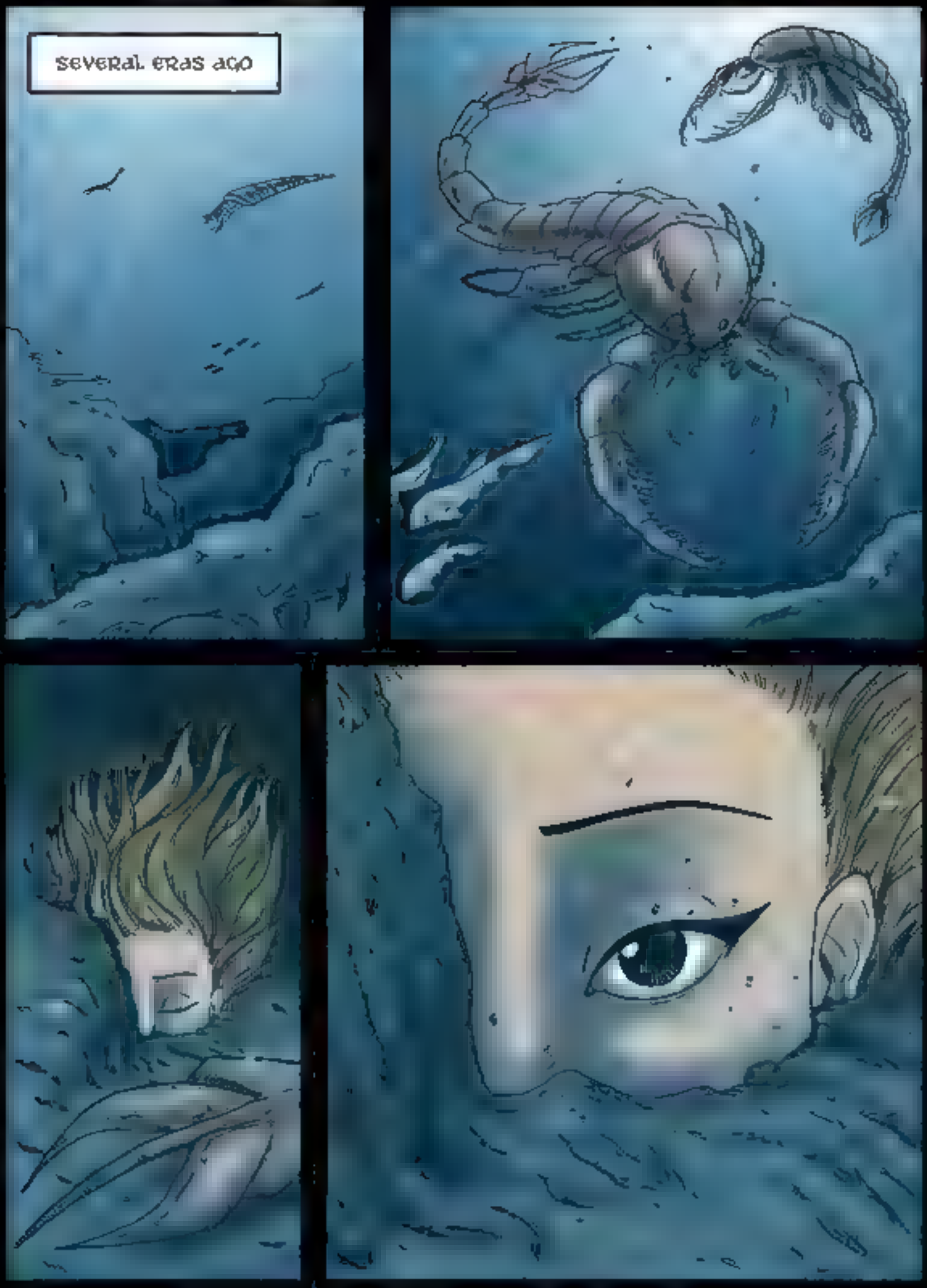

millennia ago

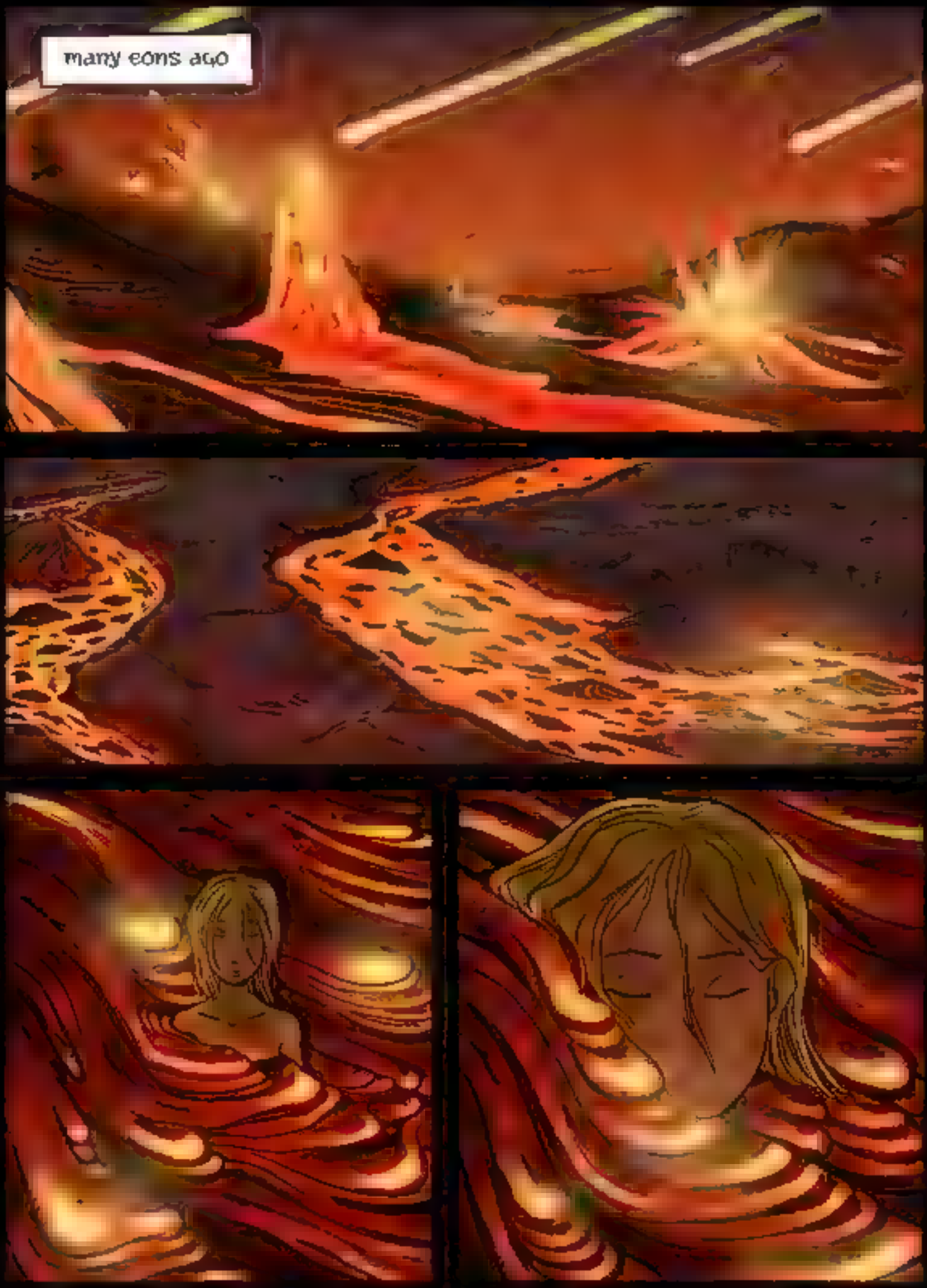

several millennia ago


many millennia ago

the previous epoch

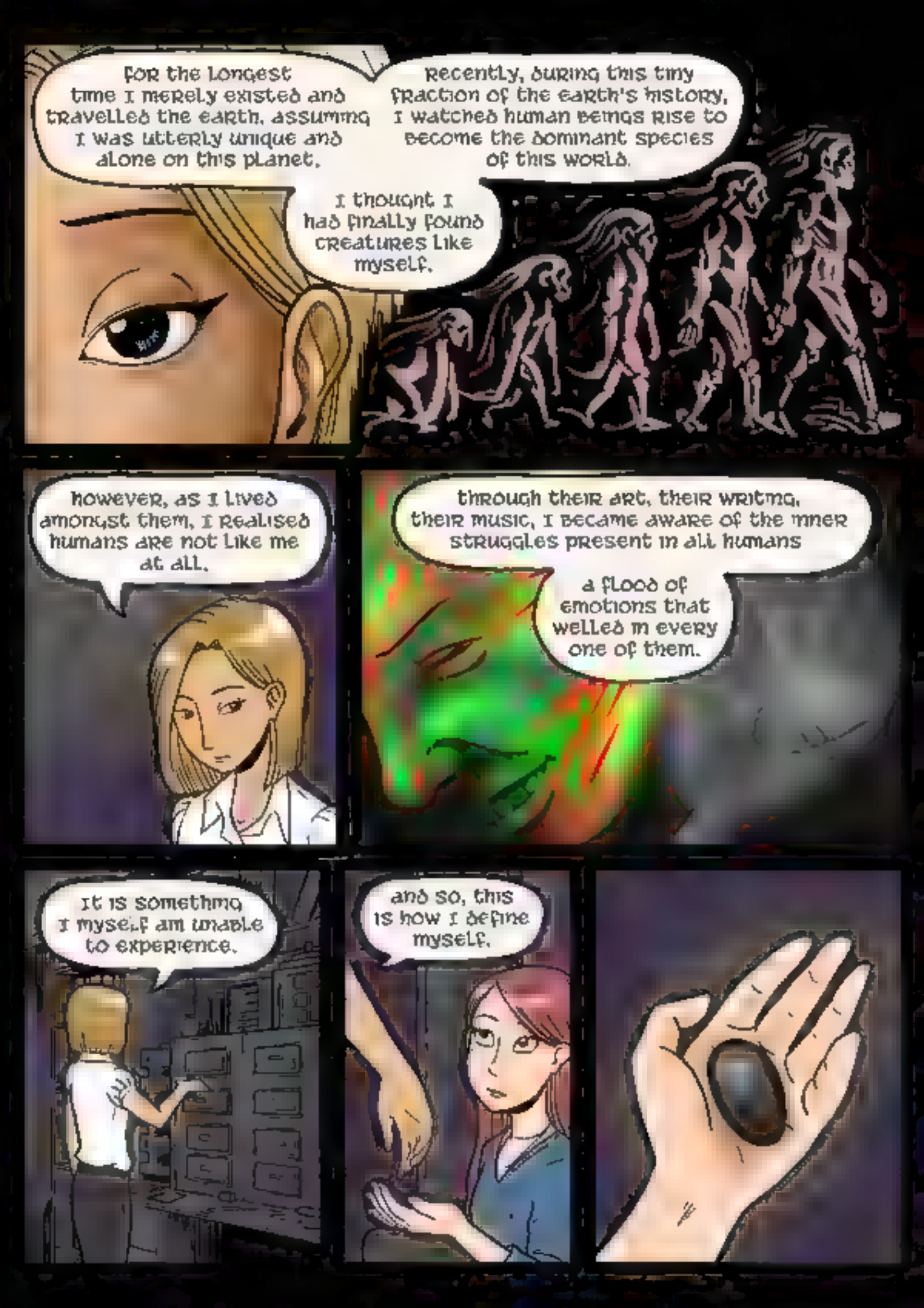


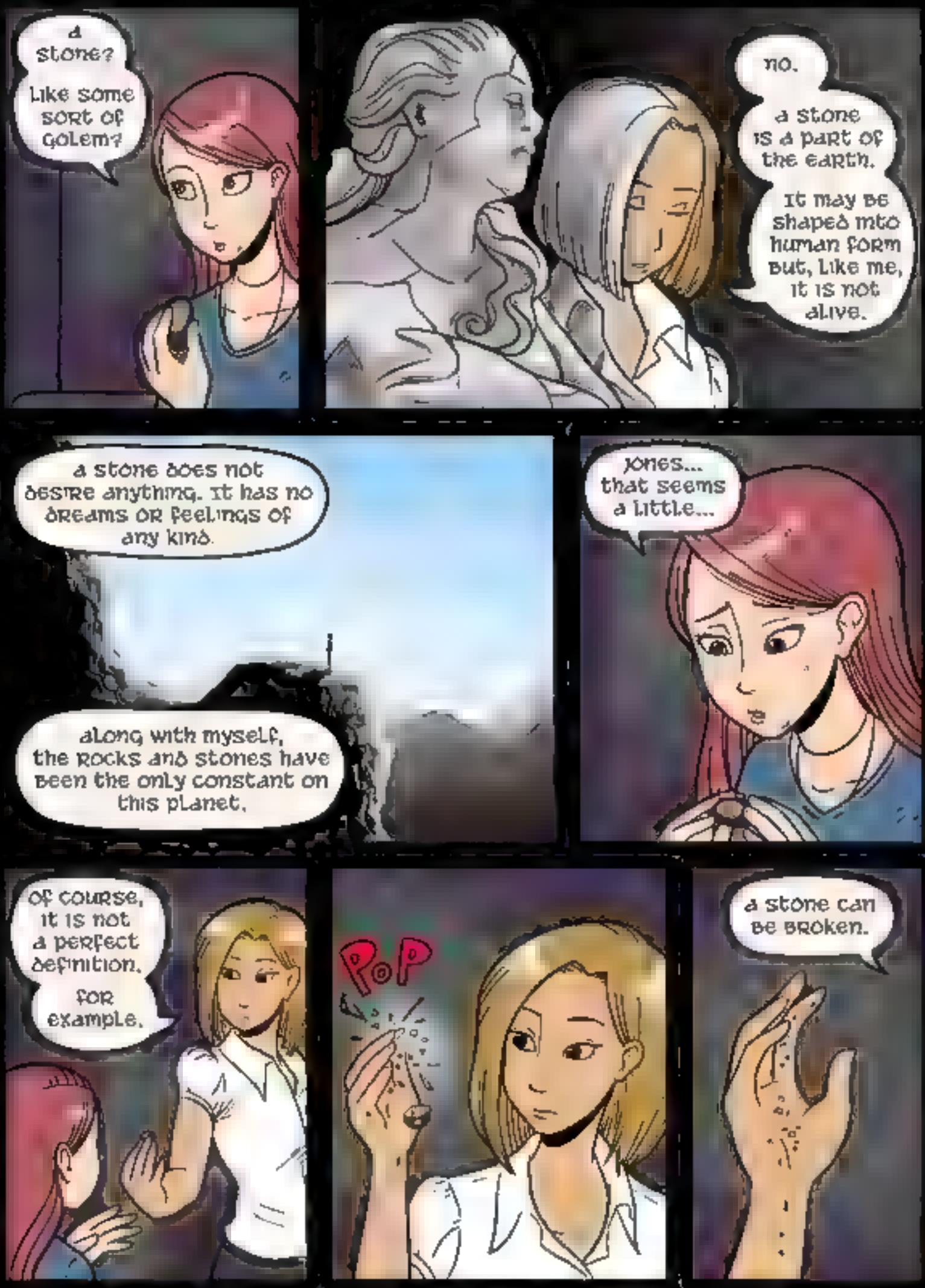

SEVERAL ERAS AGO

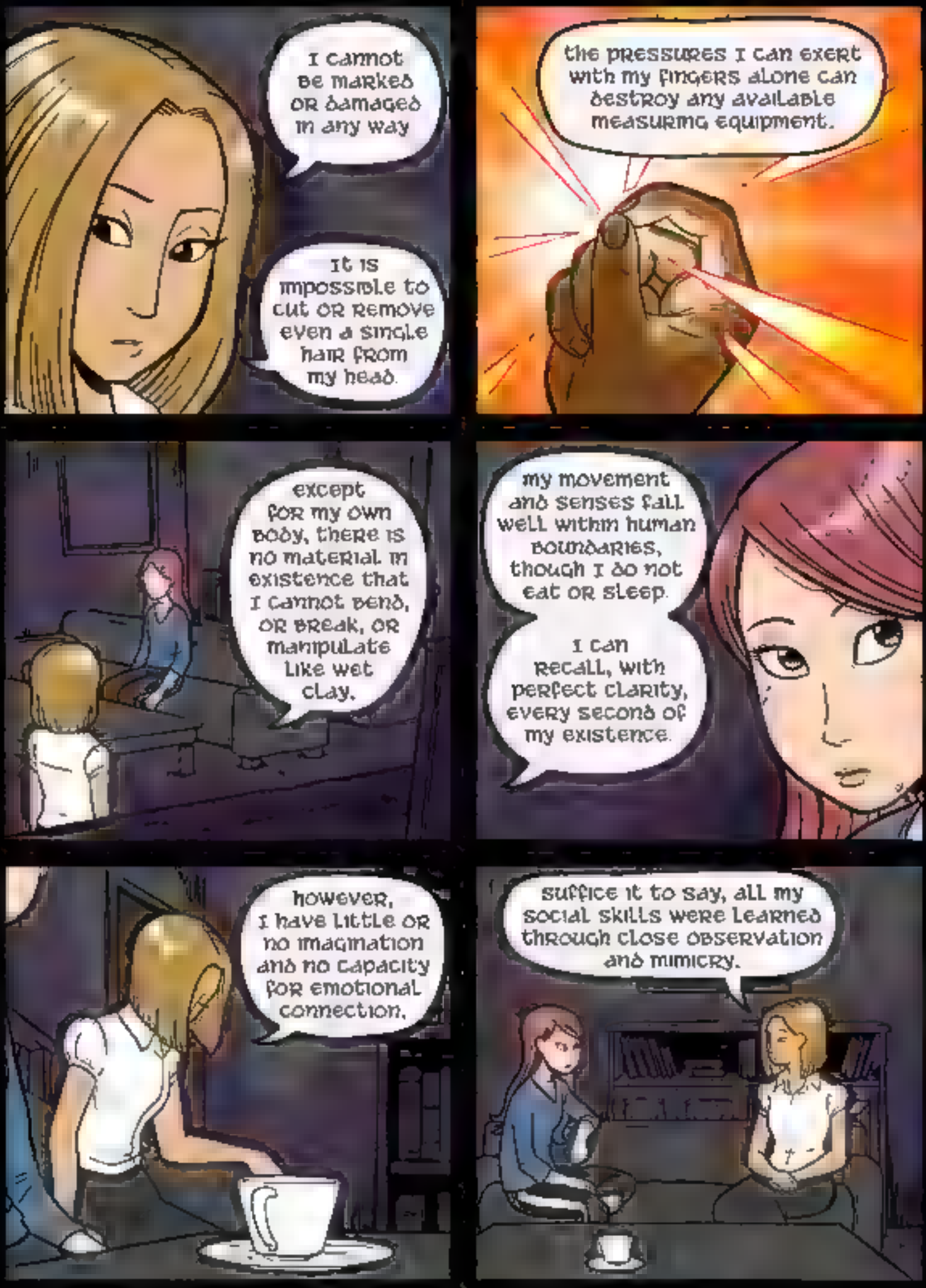

many eons ago

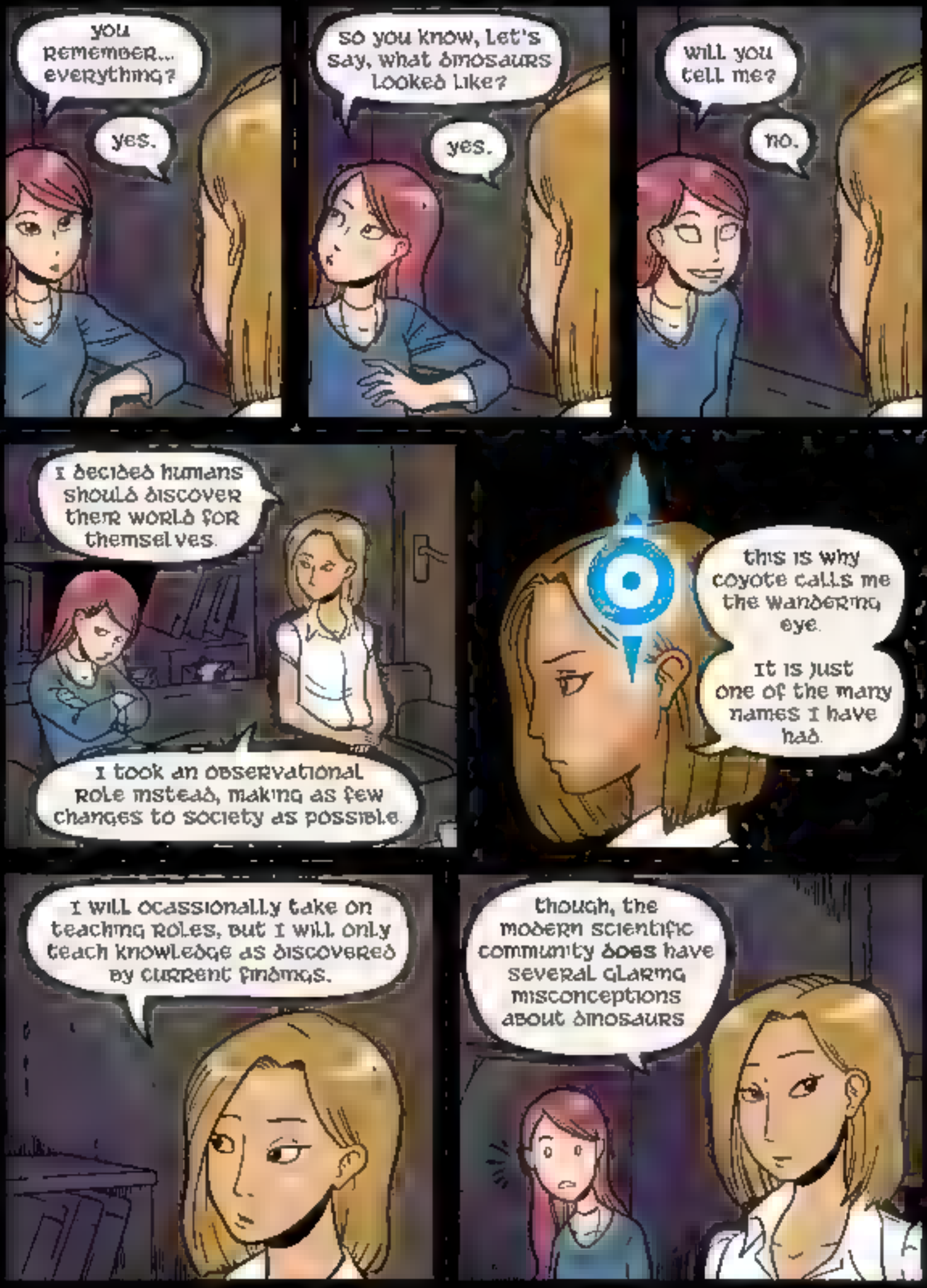

currently

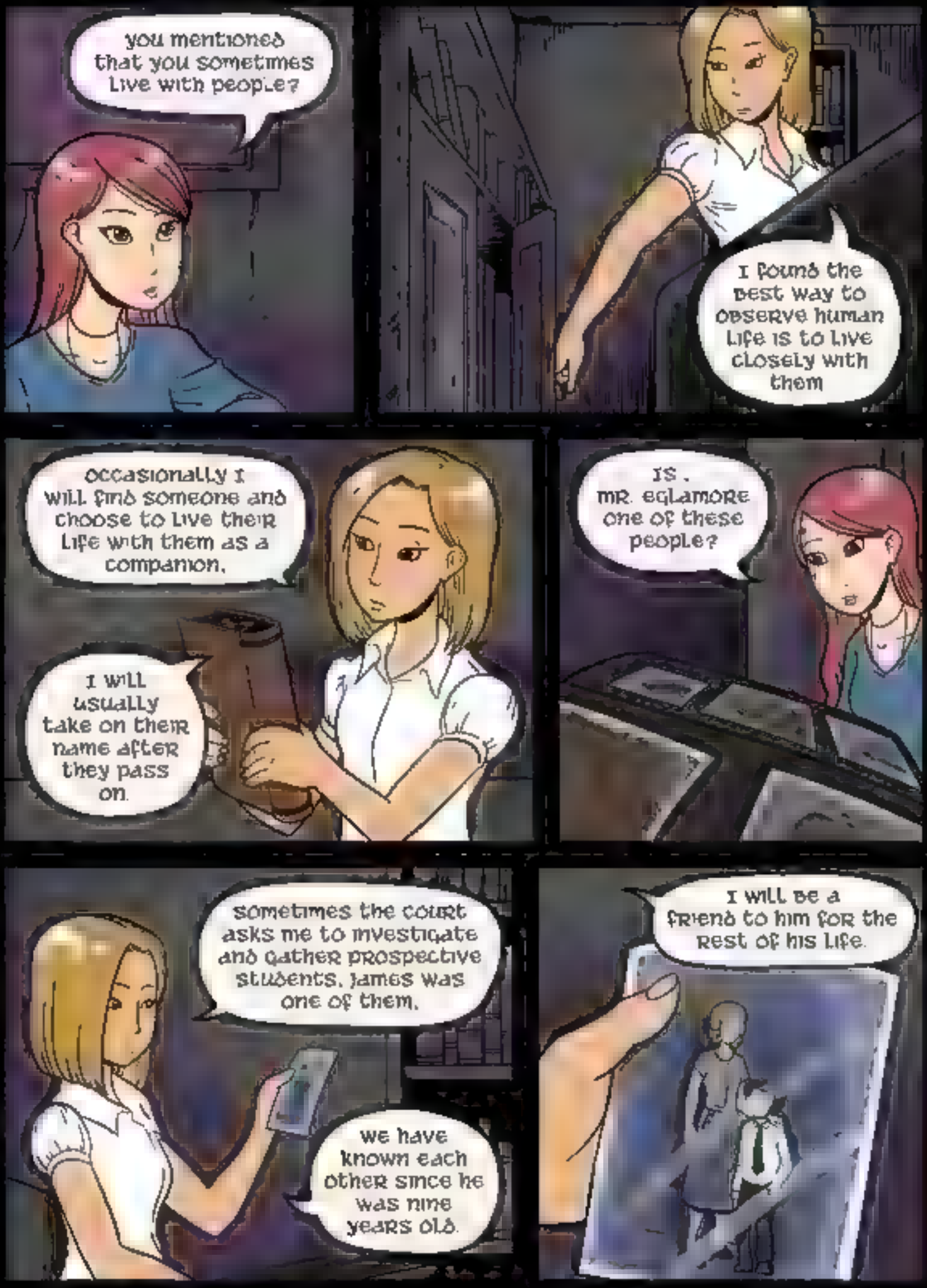

you... were there at the formation of the earth?
yes.
I am aware of nothing before that moment.
ysengrin told me you were immortal, but I had no idea...
I consider that to be incorrect. to avoid death, one must first be alive
and you're not... alive?
no.
and to answer your previous question...
I do not know what I am.

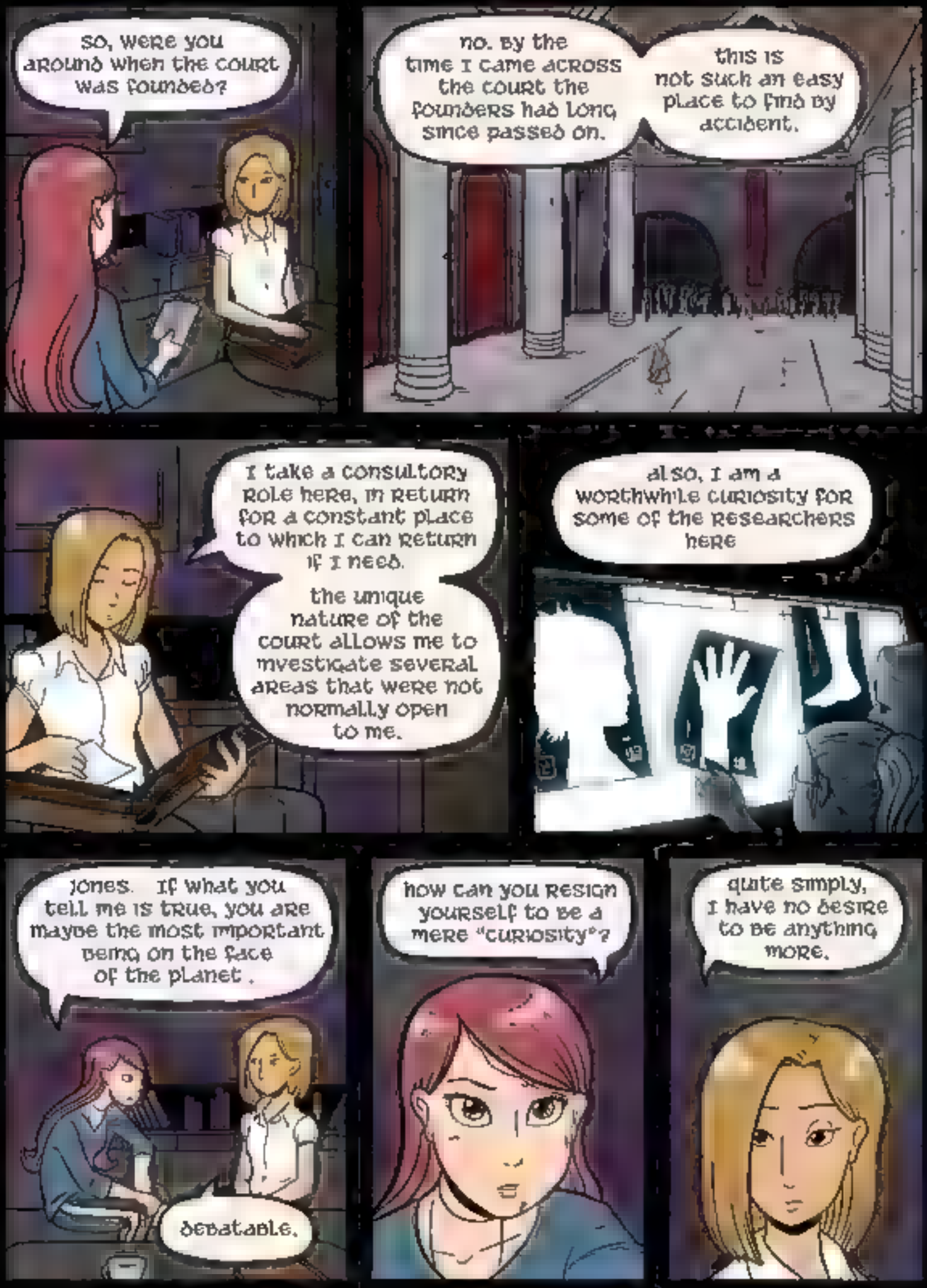

For the longest time I merely existed and travelled the earth, assuming I was utterly unique and alone on this planet.
Recently, during this tiny fraction of the earth's history, I watched human beings rise to become the dominant species of this world.
I thought I had finally found creatures like myself.
However, as I lived amongst them, I realised humans are not like me at all.
through their art, their writing, their music, I became aware of the inner struggles present in all humans
a flood of emotions that welled in every one of them.
It is something I myself am unable to experience.
and so, this is how I define myself.


a stone?
like some sort of golem?
no.
a stone is a part of the earth.
it may be shaped into human form but, like me, it is not alive.
a stone does not desire anything. it has no dreams or feelings of any kind.
along with myself, the rocks and stones have been the only constant on this planet.
jones... that seems a little...
of course, it is not a perfect definition.
for example.
POP
a stone can be broken.

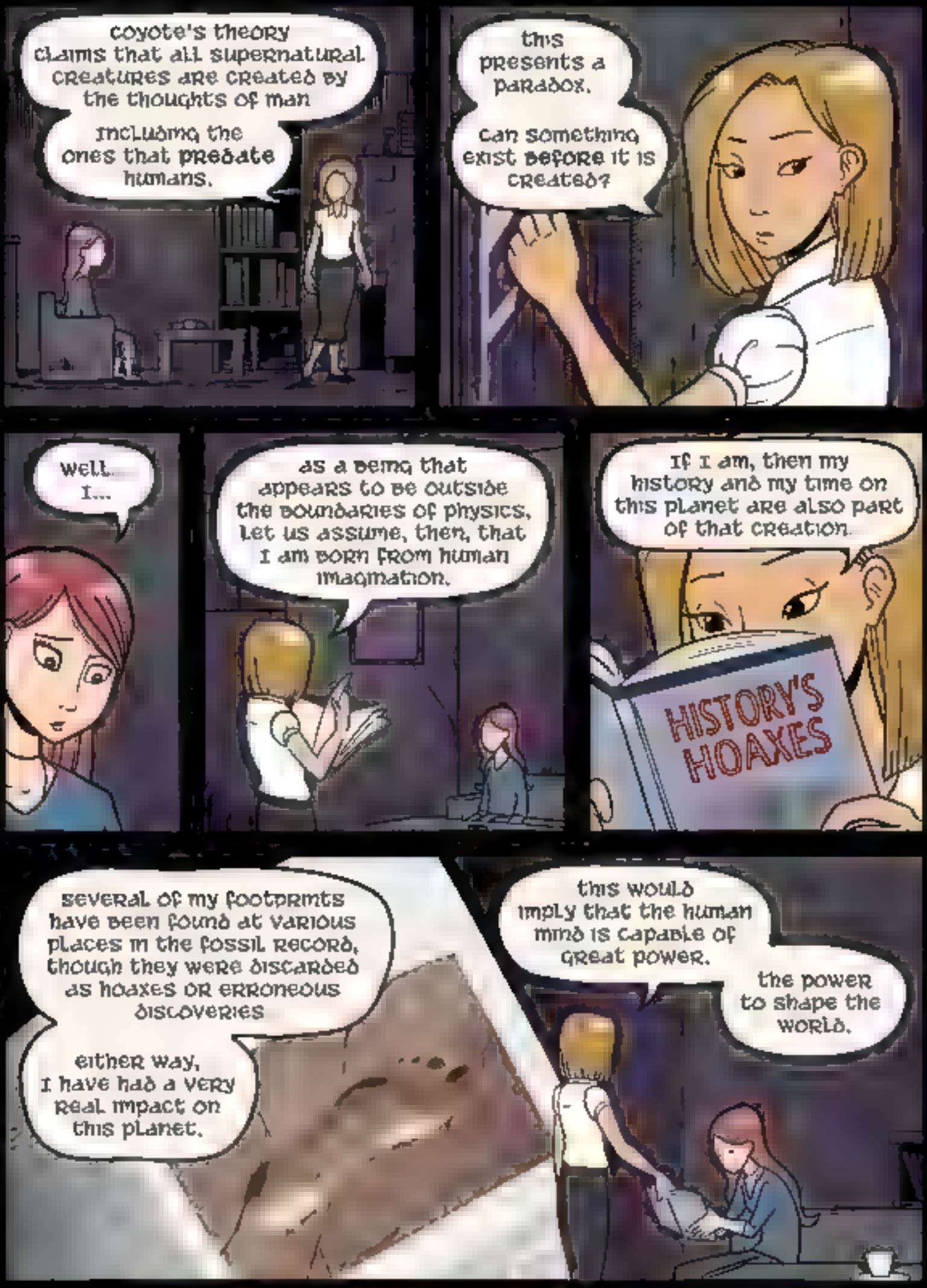

I cannot be marked or damaged in any way
It is impossible to cut or remove even a single hair from my head.
the pressures I can exert with my fingers alone can destroy any available measuring equipment.
except for my own body, there is no material in existence that I cannot bend, or break, or manipulate like wet clay.
my movement and senses fall well within human boundaries, though I do not eat or sleep.
I can recall, with perfect clarity, every second of my existence.
however, I have little or no imagination and no capacity for emotional connection.
suffice it to say, all my social skills were learned through close observation and mimicry.


you remember... everything?
yes.
so you know, let's say, what dinosaurs looked like?
yes.
will you tell me?
no.
I decided humans should discover their world for themselves.
I took an observational role instead, making as few changes to society as possible.
this is why coyote calls me the wandering eye.
It is just one of the many names I have had.
I will ocassionally take on teaching roles, but I will only teach knowledge as discovered by current findings.
though, the modern scientific community does have several glaring misconceptions about dinosaurs


you mentioned that you sometimes live with people?
I found the best way to observe human life is to live closely with them
occasionally I will find someone and choose to live their life with them as a companion.
I will usually take on their name after they pass on.
is . mr. eglamore one of these people?
sometimes the court asks me to investigate and gather prospective students. james was one of them.
we have known each other since he was nine years old.
I will be a friend to him for the rest of his life.

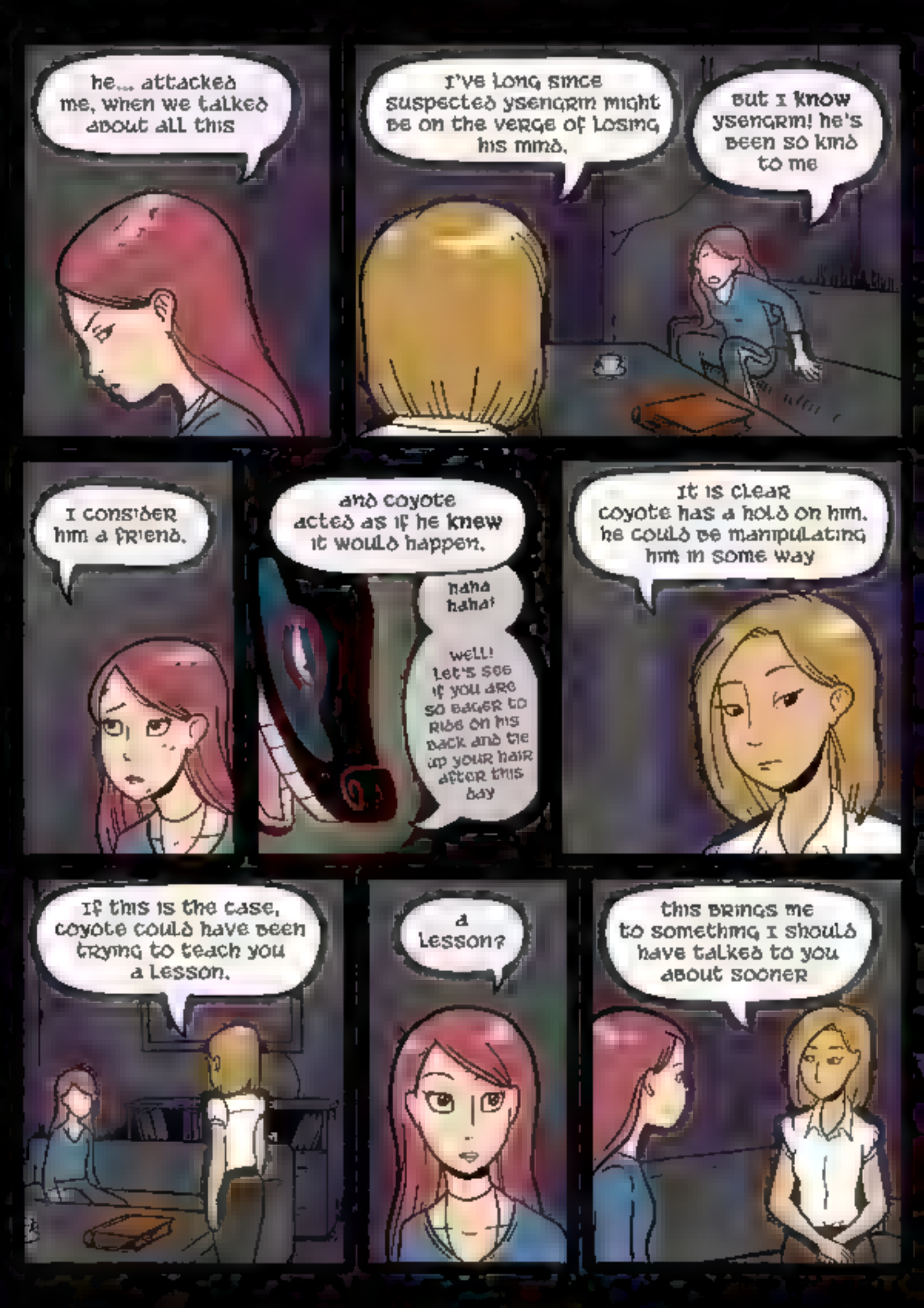

so, were you around when the court was founded?
no. by the time I came across the court the founders had long since passed on.
this is not such an easy place to find by accident.
I take a consultory role here, in return for a constant place to which I can return if I need.
the unique nature of the court allows me to investigate several areas that were not normally open to me.
also, I am a worthwhile curiosity for some of the researchers here
jones. If what you tell me is true, you are maybe the most important being on the face of the planet.
debatable.
how can you resign yourself to be a mere "curiosity"?
quite simply, I have no desire to be anything more.

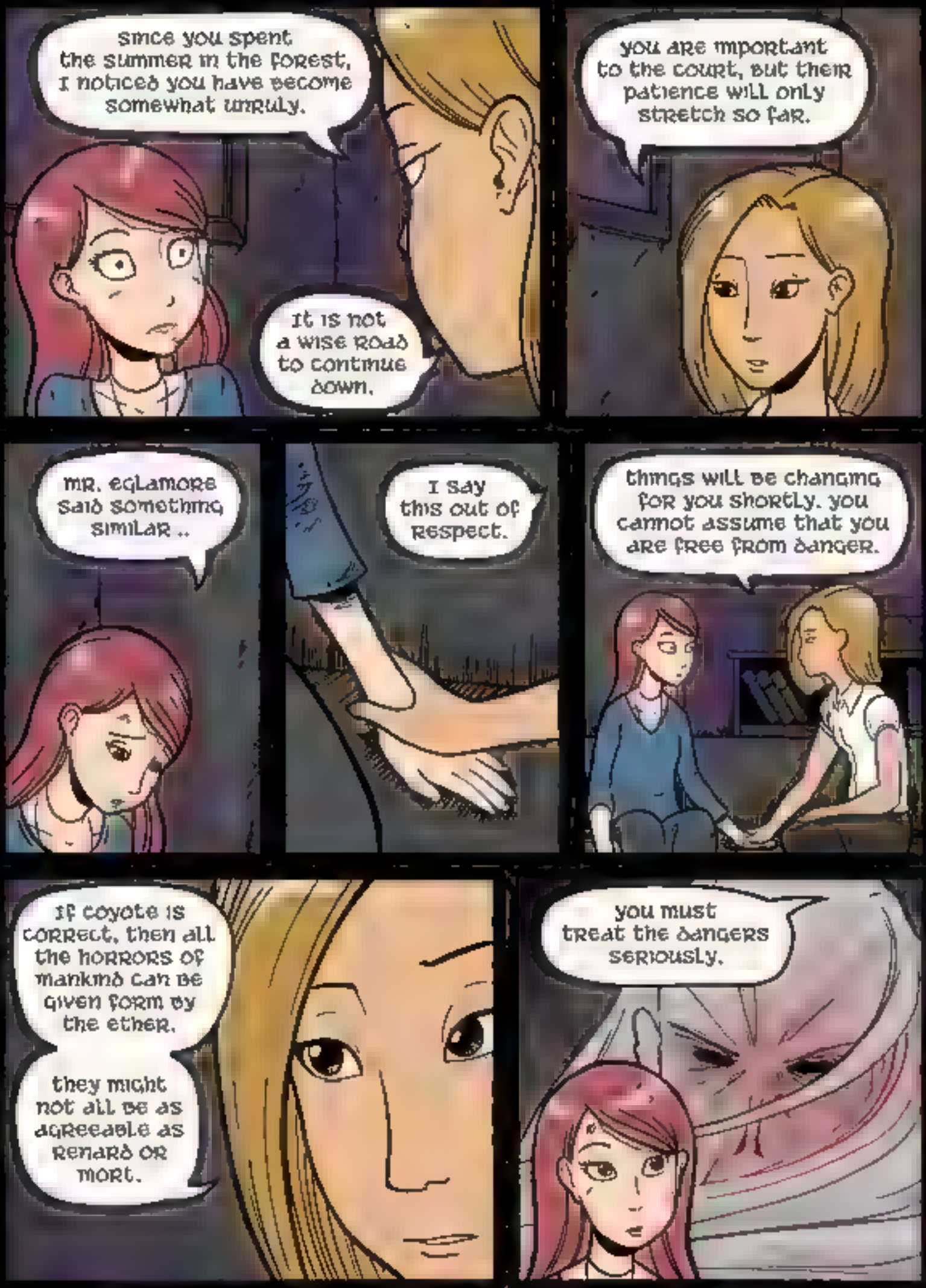

now, I gather something happened in the forest?
coyote told me his great secret.
I see.
I used you as an example to disprove it. If you really did walk the earth before humans, how then could humans have created you?
then he said to ask you about the stars in the sky.
that is a thought experiment coyote is fond of
who put the stars in the sky?
coyote will say he did it himself, and it is not a lie.
however, I can unequivocally state that the stars were always in the sky.
the same claim will be made by powerful creatures from other cultures around the world.
I saw them myself, long before any creature on this planet could lift their head to see them


Coyote's theory claims that all supernatural creatures are created by the thoughts of man
including the ones that predate humans.
this presents a paradox.
can something exist before it is created?
Well. I...
as a being that appears to be outside the boundaries of physics, let us assume, then, that I am born from human imagination.
If I am, then my history and my time on this planet are also part of that creation.
HISTORY'S HOAXES
several of my footprints have been found at various places in the fossil record, though they were discarded as hoaxes or erroneous discoveries
either way, I have had a very real impact on this planet.
this would imply that the human mind is capable of great power.
the power to shape the world.


but that's always been true, in a way
cultures thrive on their myths and legends, right?
for better or worse, humans have always been compelled into action by what they believe.
and what coyote proposes is a more literal interpretation
creatures born from and in tune with the ether that have great power in this world.
I have no connection with the ether whatsoever, but you and I have seen the effects of it first hand.
can the ether and the human mind combine to create beings as strong as coyote or myself?
coyote says that they can.


Why is Coyote so eager for me to learn about this?
If his theory is correct, and the ether allows the creation of such tangible power, what if one were to manipulate it for their own purposes?
the court...
the court does experiments with the ether...
It does.
I remember Renard was upset when he found out...
What? They would meddle with the very fabric of existence in such a way?!
To what end?!
Coyote's plans are rarely clear, but if he means to point this out to you, he could be trying to sway your opinion of the court.
Ysengrin .


he... attacked me, when we talked about all this
I've long since suspected ysengrim might be on the verge of losing his mind.
but I know ysengrim! he's been so kind to me
I consider him a friend.
and coyote acted as if he knew it would happen.
haha haha!
well! let's see if you are so eager to ride on his back and tie up your hair after this day
It is clear coyote has a hold on him. he could be manipulating him in some way
If this is the case, coyote could have been trying to teach you a lesson.
a lesson?
this brings me to something I should have talked to you about sooner

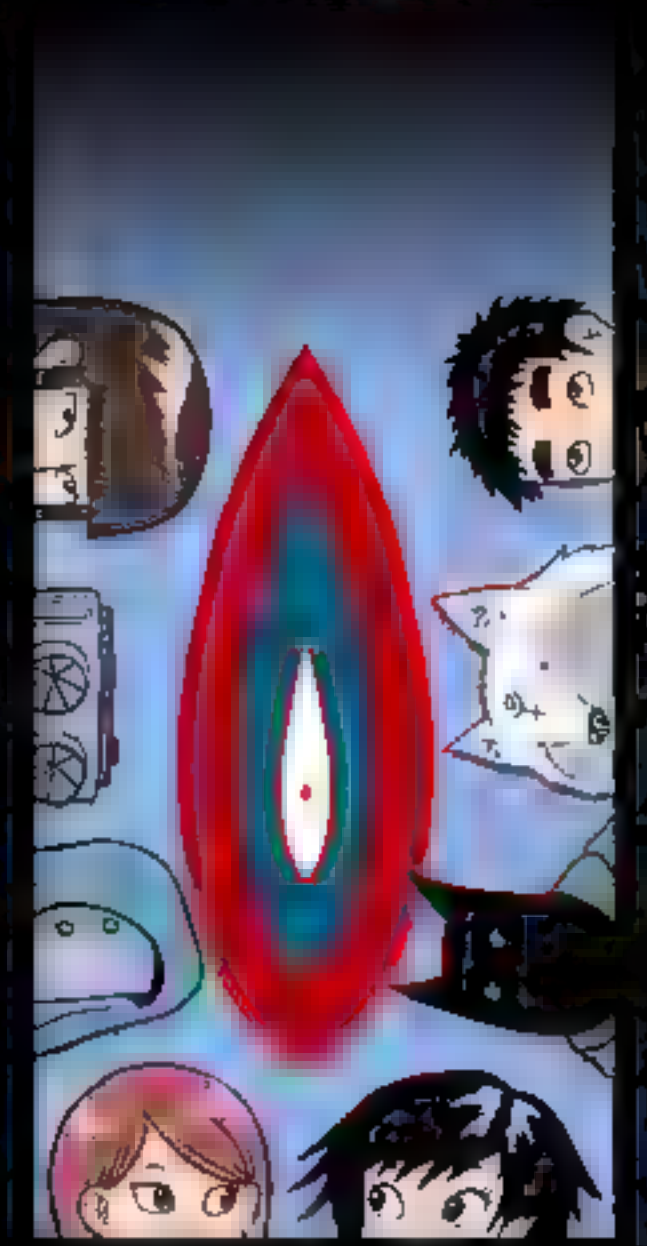

since you spent the summer in the forest, I noticed you have become somewhat unruly.
It is not a wise road to continue down.
you are important to the court, but their patience will only stretch so far.
mr. eglamore said something similar ..
I say this out of respect.
things will be changing for you shortly. you cannot assume that you are free from danger.
if coyote is correct, then all the horrors of mankind can be given form by the ether.
they might not all be as agreeable as renard or mort.
you must treat the dangers seriously.


I trust you, Jones.
I'll try to do better.
and, I don't think you are as emotionless as you say.
I think you love those people you shared your life with
In your own way
you carry their name with you after they pass as a sign of that love.
thank you, antimony.

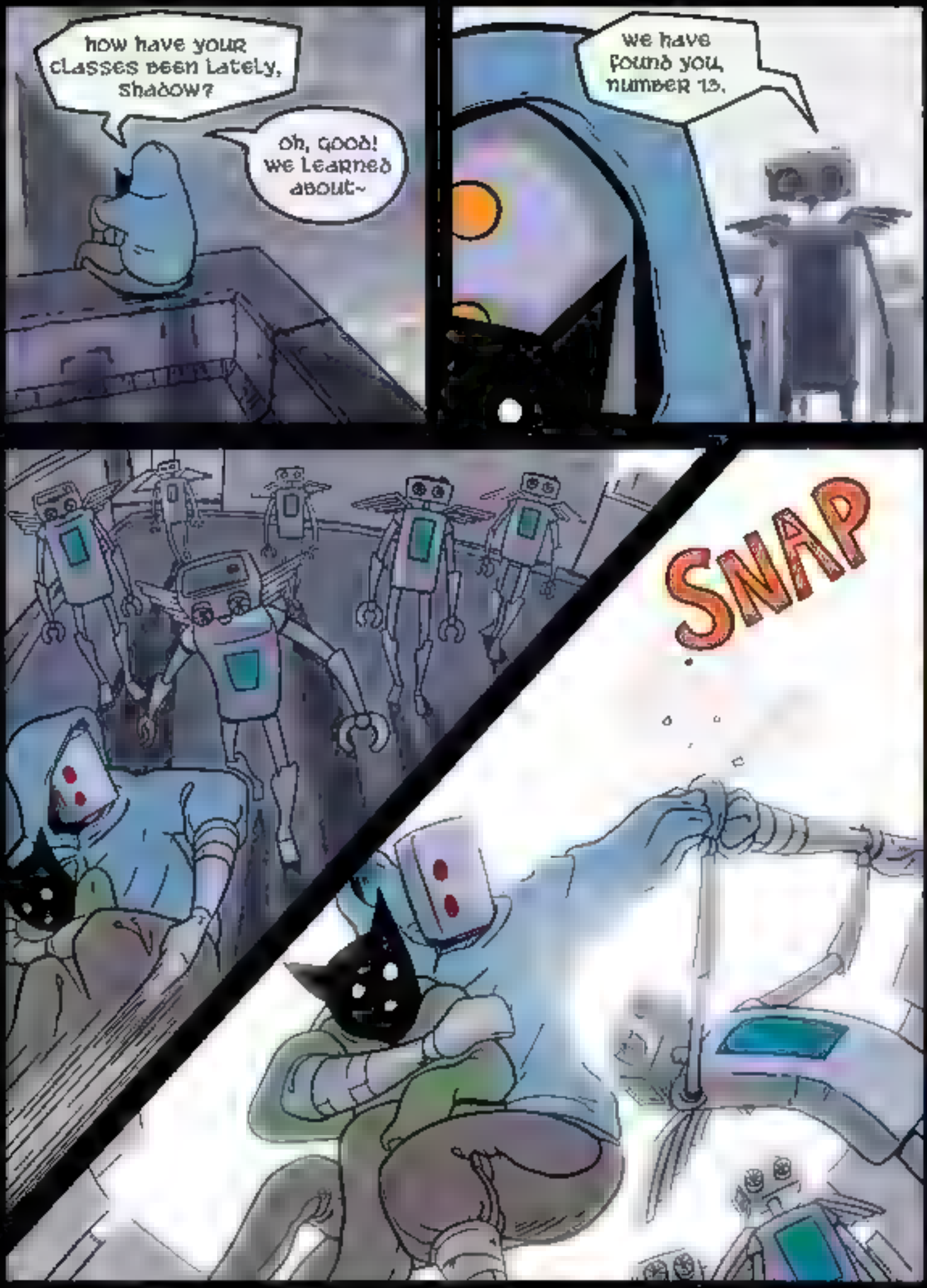
Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 41:

Changes



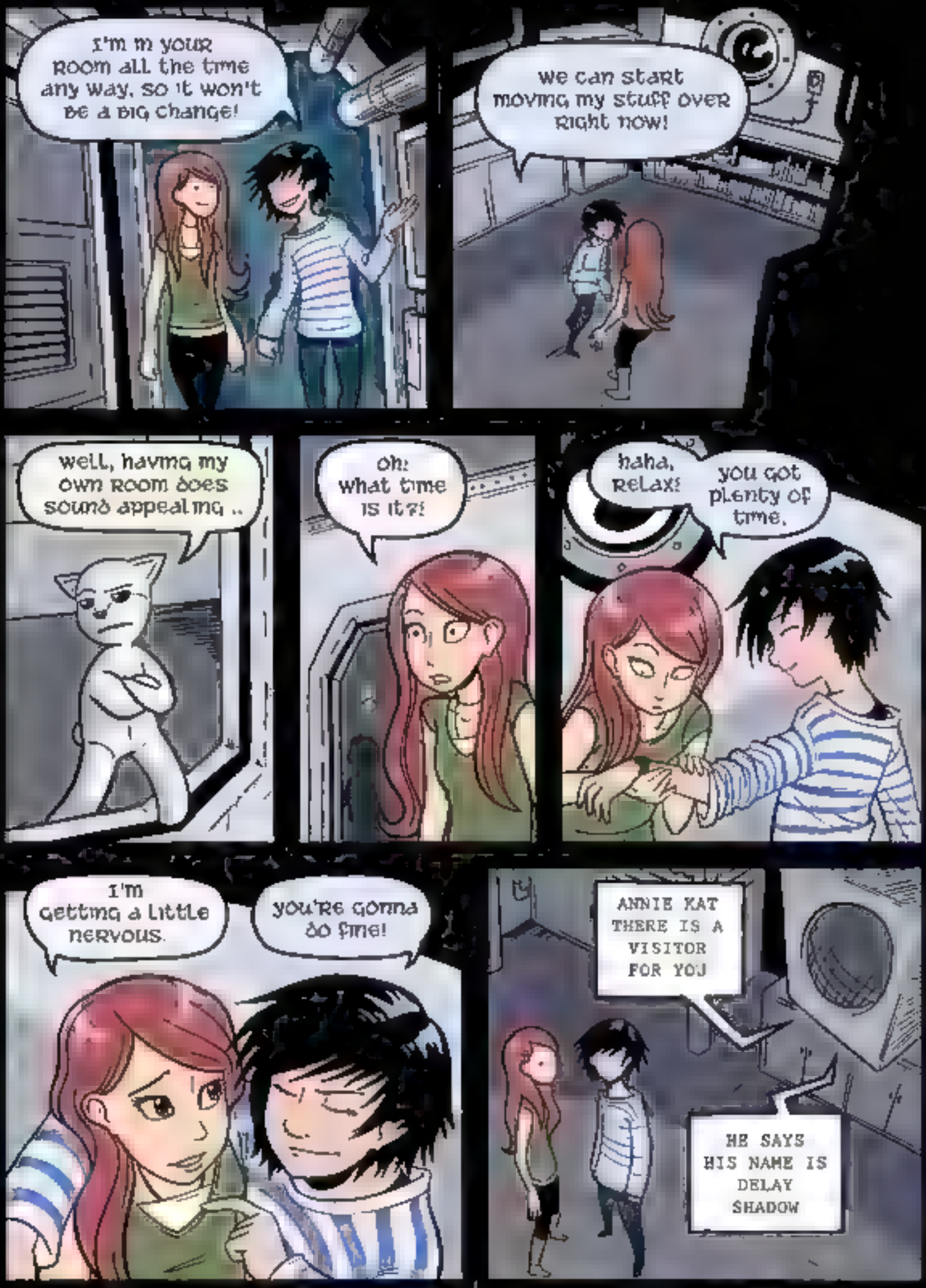

here.
you just sit like that...
and then I can sit here and it's not so cold!
winter's here, you know!
but my body does not give out warmth, shadow.
so? it's still nice
and I can hear the humming in your chest when I sit like this.
it is nice.


how have your classes been lately, shadow?
oh, good! we learned about~
we have found you, number 13.
SNAP


CLONK
ROBOT!
SHADOW, YOU MUST GET AWAY, LIKE WE PRACTICED.
THEY ARE ONLY HERE FOR ME
WAIT!
ROBOT!



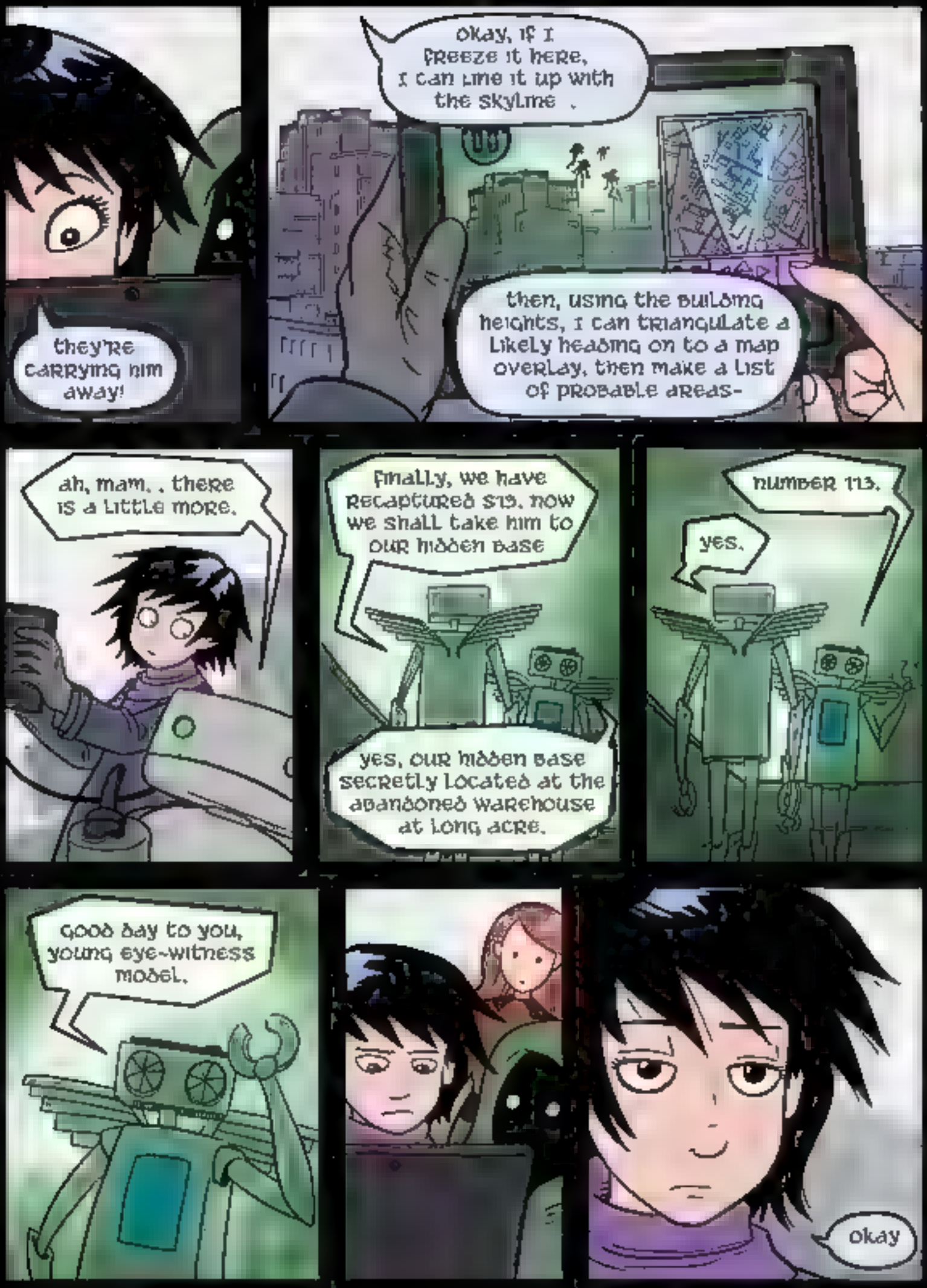

I think it's a wonderful idea! I'd be more than happy to do it!
YOU MUST AGREE RENARD IT IS HARDLY APPROPRIATE FOR YOU TO BE SHARING ANNIES ROOM A YOUNG WOMAN NEEDS HER PRIVACY
Well .. I suppose but it's never been a problem before
What do you say, kat? would you like to share a room?
I'd love to!

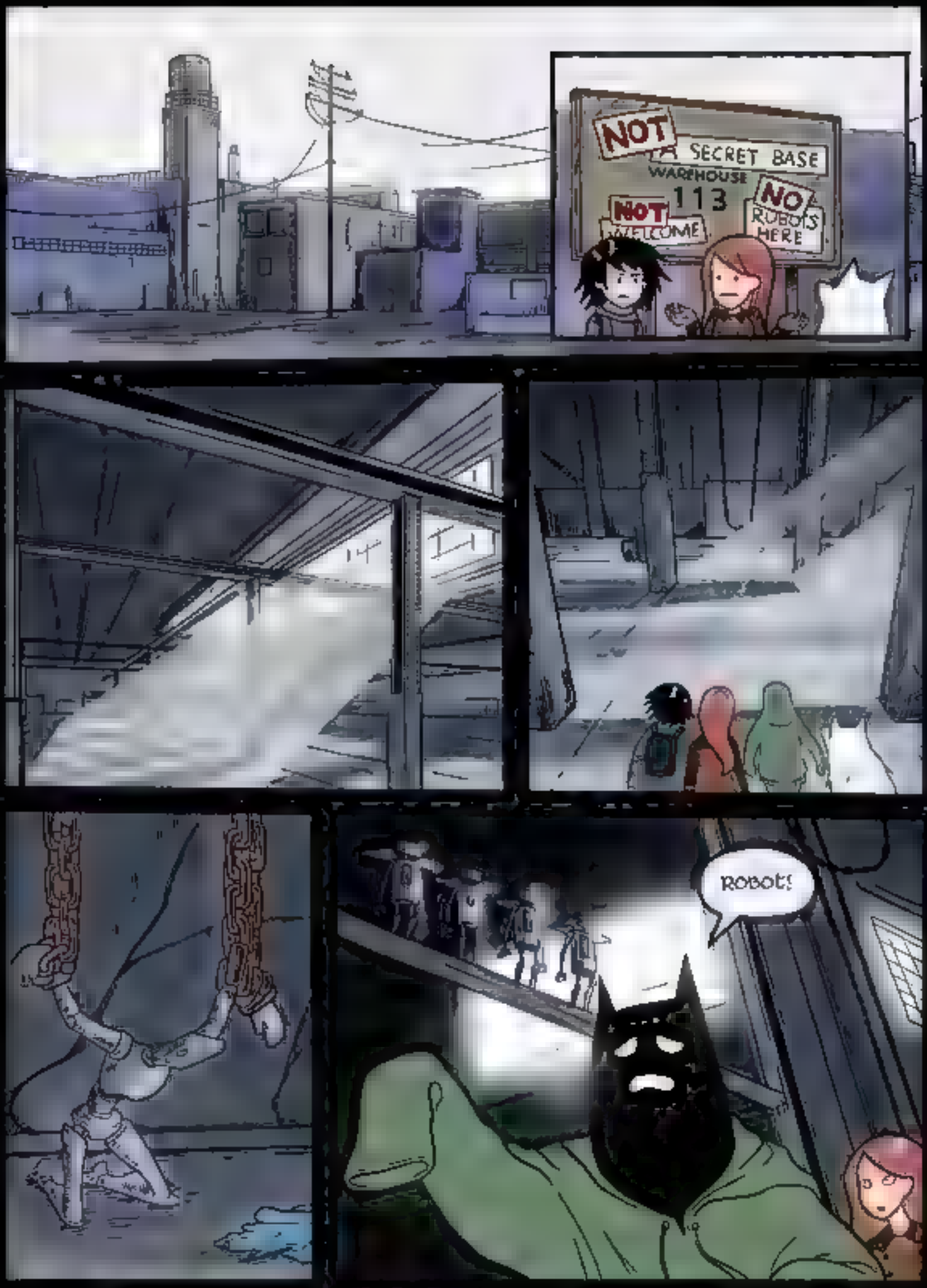

I'm in your room all the time any way, so it won't be a big change!
we can start moving my stuff over right now!
well, having my own room does sound appealing ..
oh! what time is it?!
haha, relax!
you got plenty of time.
I'm getting a little nervous.
you're gonna do fine!
ANNIE KAT THERE IS A VISITOR FOR YOJ
HE SAYS HIS NAME IS DELAY SHADOW


Shadow! What are you doing here?
Annie! Kat! It's Robot!
He... he was attacked!
What?!
Annie, do you remember Robot's old body? Back when we crossed the bridge?
They looked just like that!
Robot made me leave, but he was hurt, and there were so many of them!
Wait right here, Shadow, we'll help you look for him!
I'm gonna grab a couple things, just in case!

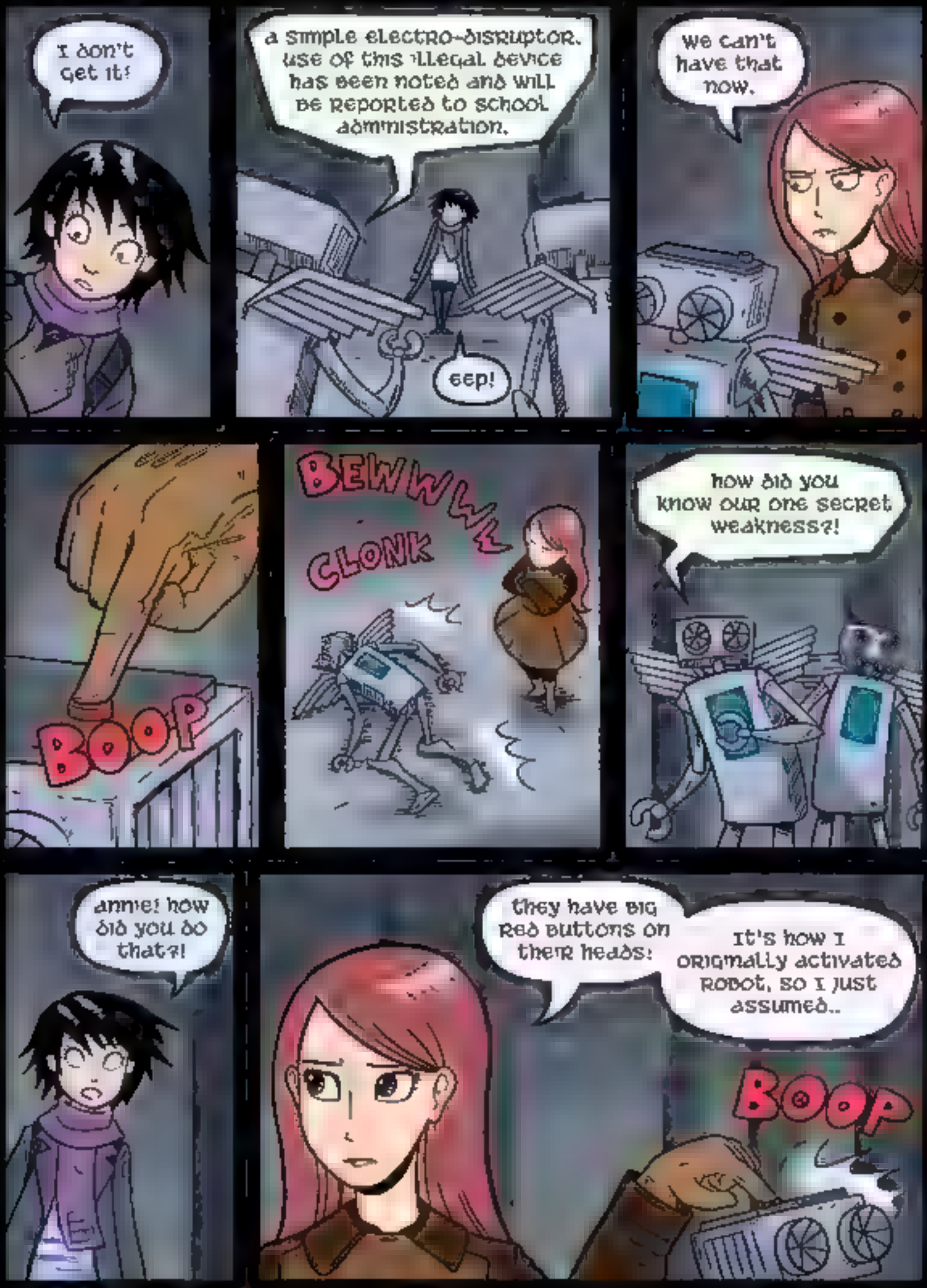

me and robot were sitting here, and they snuck up from behind!
then we jumped down to that roof, and I didn't see what happened next!
they must have taken him away somewhere!
there's a robot nearby.
Beep
sniff sniff
d-don't hurt me, sir!
oh! you're the angel!
sure, dude. did you see what happened here?
I did! I saved it all!


I'm going to take a look at your video log, okay?
Pat Pat
an honour!
that's them!
wow, they do kinda look like that old seraph body
they did take him.
robot..


they're carrying him away!
okay, if I freeze it here, I can line it up with the skyline .
then, using the building heights, I can triangulate a likely heading on to a map overlay, then make a list of probable areas-
ah, mam. . there is a little more.
finally, we have recaptured 513. now we shall take him to our hidden base
yes, our hidden base secretly located at the abandoned warehouse at long acre.
number 113.
yes.
good day to you, young eye-witness model.
okay

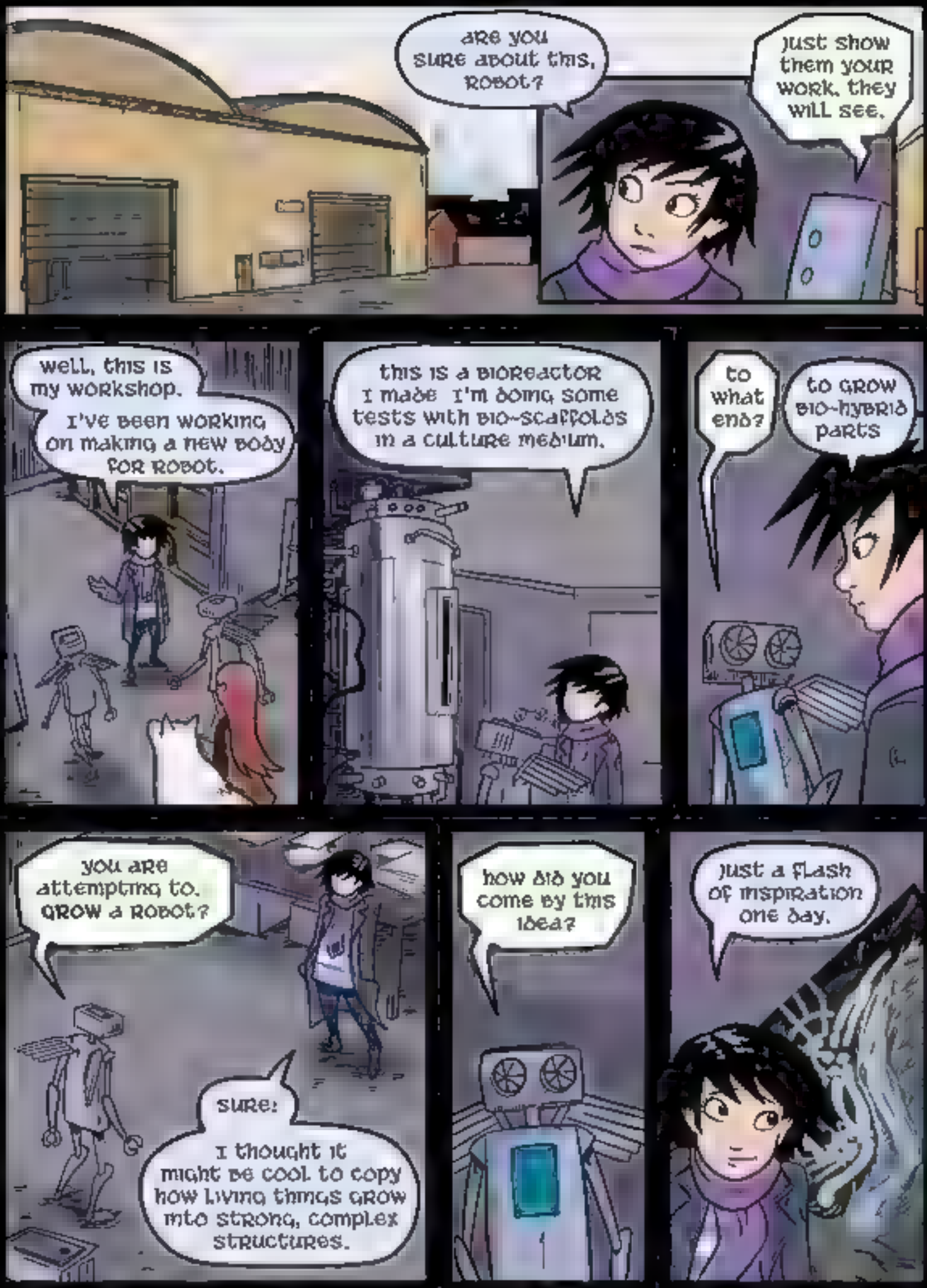

NOT
SECRET BASE
WAREHOUSE
113
NOT
NO
ROBOTS
HERE
ROBOT!

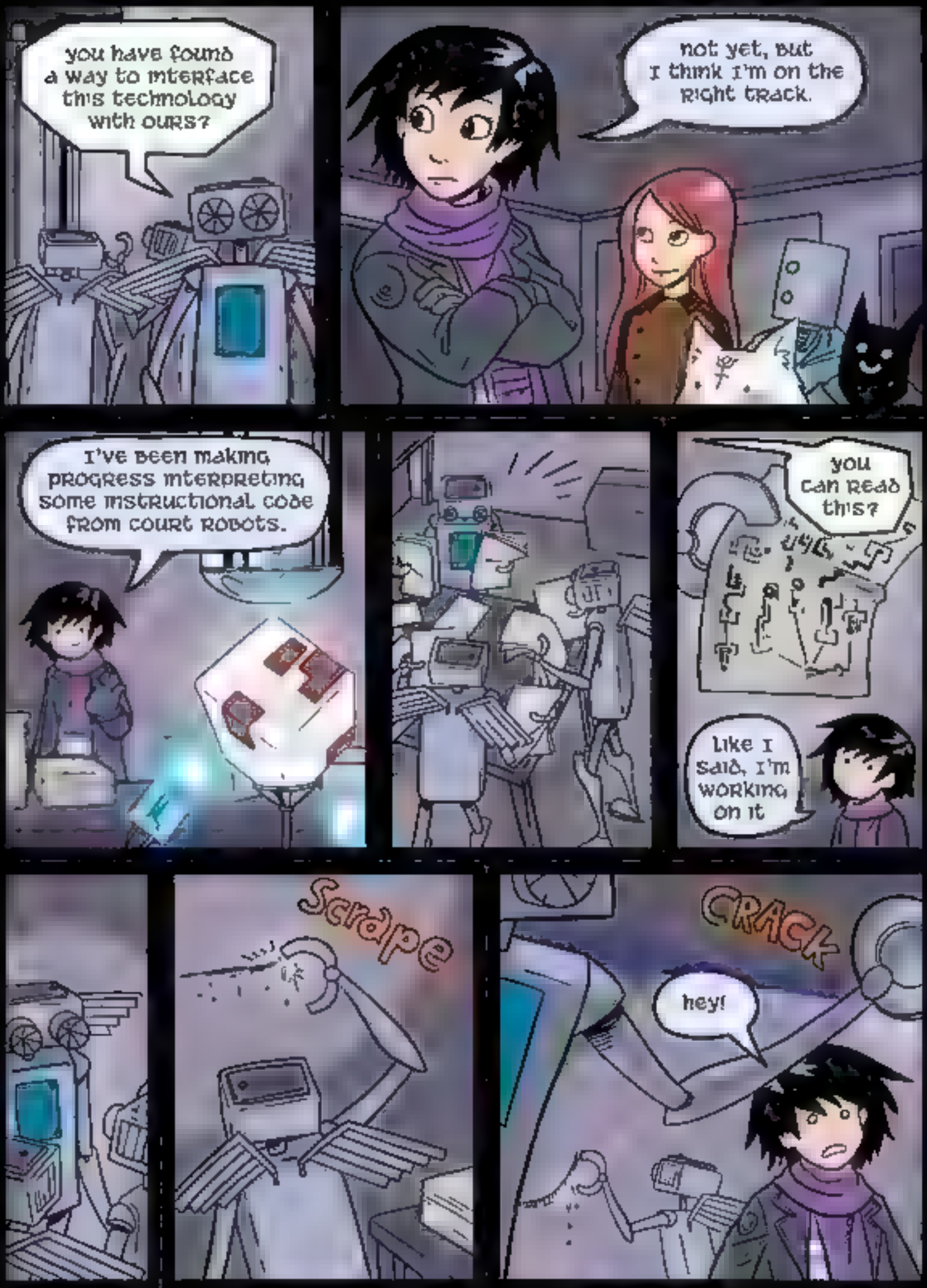

shadow! you should not have come here!
trespassers.
you are students of the court you will be unharmed.
however, you are not a recognised species.
and you have been identified as the demon renard.
you will be apprehended
hold it right there!
this disruptor will stop you in your tracks!
(my dad gave it to me)
pip pip
uh..
pip pip pip


I don't get it!
a simple electro-disruptor. use of this illegal device has been noted and will be reported to school administration.
eep!
we can't have that now.
BOOP
BEWWW
CLONK
how did you know our one secret weakness?!
annie! how did you do that?!
they have big red buttons on their heads!
it's how I originally activated robot, so I just assumed..
BOOP


s-stop!
then Let my friend go!
best not to anger her, tin man!
brothers!
this is her! the one I told you about!
you are the one they call the angel?
uh... I guess some robots call me that, but I don't know why.
hmm...
just because she is beautiful and angelic in appearance does not mean she is the real angel..
...


S13 is being held for the spreading of disinformation and rumor.
he was hidden away in a secret place where he could not possibly be found, but then we heard he escaped into the forest!
WANTED
NO
Spare Robot Parts
even though his body was paperclipped, he somehow escaped again with the help of a traitorous robot we are still searching for.
but we have finally caught him, when we learned he was up to his old tricks.
I don't care if you're looking for him! Let him go!
look, you can either let him go now, or we're gonna kick your metal butts!
01100010 01101100 01100001 01101000 01100010 01101100 01100001 01101000
we have decided to decline your offer of a butt kicking.
we will let S13 go on the condition that you prove you truly are the angel.


are you sure about this, robot?
just show them your work. they will see.
well, this is my workshop.
I've been working on making a new body for robot.
this is a bioreactor I made I'm doing some tests with bio-scaffolds in a culture medium.
to what end?
to grow bio-hybrid parts
you are attempting to. grow a robot?
sure:
I thought it might be cool to copy how living things grow into strong, complex structures.
how did you come by this idea?
just a flash of inspiration one day.


you have found a way to interface this technology with ours?
not yet, but I think I'm on the right track.
I've been making progress interpreting some instructional code from court robots.
you can read this?
like I said, I'm working on it
Scrape
CRACK
hey!


S13, you have long since predicted the coming of an angel that will usher us into a new realm of existence
It appears this has now come to pass.
hey now... I'm just working on a new body for robot because he's my friend.
WEEEN
we have bestowed upon you the mark of the creator.
you are now under our protection.


who are you guys?!
is that the time?!
I'm going to be late!
kat! I have to go!
will you be okay here?
ha! don't worry about these guys!
you go!
well, I'm keeping my eye on you!
jump on!
good luck!


Okay, phew. I think we made it...
Ready?
Wait... antimony.
I just wanted to tell you... I'm proud of you.
Of how far you've...
I want you standing next to me the whole time


BIP
hey! did we miss anything?
Right on cue, I'd say
what're you sniffin' at?
Sniff
Sniff
hehehe


No4


thank you for your invitation, headmaster!
we do so love visiting your rabbit warren!
and thank you for coming.
as you are aware, we have been preparing to appoint a new medium to act as our liaison to the forest
george parley
andrew smith
and antimony carver
have worked very hard, and we applaud them.
and now the court has made its decision.


andrew smith, the court has decided that you shall be the next medium.
haha! of course!
congratulations, annie!
we knew it would be you!
who else?
oh, well, thank you!
I had such a nice time learning with you!
I'm surprised they chose me!
oh come on now, you know it was the right~


MURMRMR
ohO! what's all this?!
jonathan, andrew was not my choice.
I told you that antimony was clearly the best candidate.
yes, we took your findings into consideration, jones, however, the court has chosen mr. smith
wh... but~
this isn't right...
I assure you it is.
furthermore...


miss parley, we would like to offer you the position of mister smith's protector during his visits to the forest.
sir eglamore says you would be more than capable with training.
Nudge
in the future, you may even take over his role as protector of the court.
you knew about this, james?!
I knew about parley, but not smith!
I was sure they'd pick annie!
what do you say, miss parley?
I... but....
then it is settled.


now, miss carver.
I'm sure you understand that this ends your visiting privileges to the forest.
we thank you for your time, but you are now free to concentrate fully on your studies.
Yawn
jonathan, you are hiding something. this course of action makes no sense otherwise.
if you wish to have reynarâme returned to our custody...
you will not take renard from me!
now listen here, you old blowhard-!
WAHAHA HAHA!


well, the bureaucracy can be a little tiring.
renard, you must enjoy it here!
humans are always so surprising!
anyway! this all pleases me!
I don't know what your game is, you leathery bag of bones, but I accept your new medium!
we look forward to seeing new faces in the forest!
something tells me you are a lucky one, mighty eyebrows boy!
and I can sense a wily strength running through you, huge nose girl!
Sniff Sniff
oh! you smell very much like each other! are you husband and wife?!
haha!

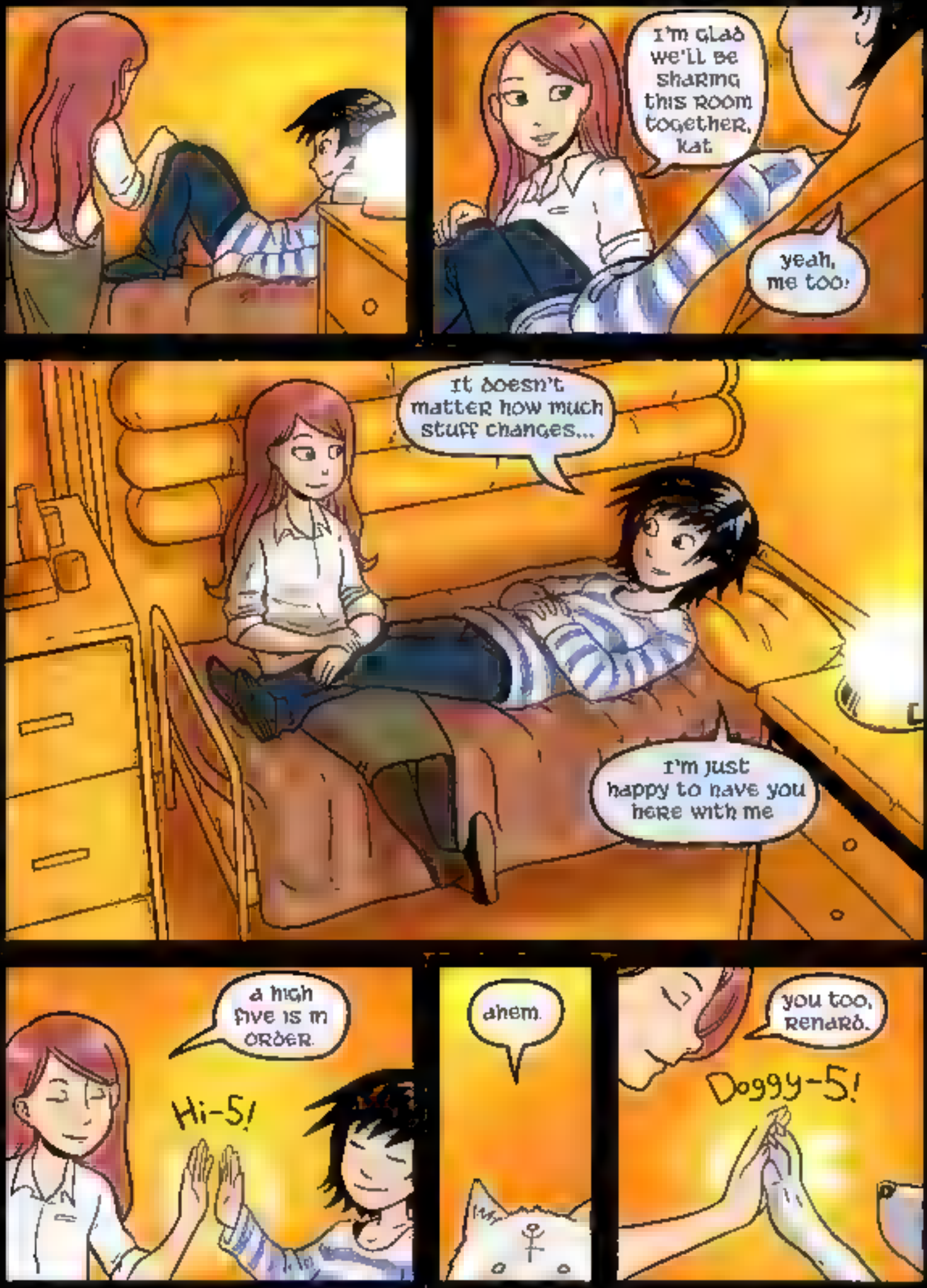

up until now, grumpy old ysengrm has been OUR measly medium.
but in light of recent events, I have just now decided to retire him from his role!
but~!
fire head girl! I want you to be my new medium to the court!
an honorary citizen of the forest!


you want me to work for you?
I do!
jones, will you tell your student why this would not be a good idea?
she is no longer my student
the choice is entirely hers to make.
miss carver, if you do this, you will have no support from the court.
no protection.
uh, actually...
as the court medium, I'm happy to offer the forest medium all the assistance and support she needs
I will personally guarantee her safety within the forest.
sh


Renard...
I will always stand by you.
well, fire head girl, what do you say?
Blink
I'll do it


whoa, you set your hair on fire?!
I thought it might look impressive...
hahaha! that headmaster man was fuming!
what a bunch of jerks! I can't believe they didn't pick you!
oh, I don't know. this way I still get to see parley and andrew
and jones said she will come with me into the forest if I want her to.
I'm worried about being the medium for the forest... but I'm really excited about it.
ya did good, kid!


how are Robot and Shadow?
Oh, they're fine. I replaced Robot's arm so Shadow was pretty happy.
those S-models kind of give me the creeps, though.
I guess they are some kind of robot secret police or something?
they're built pretty different to normal court robots.
But they agreed to stop chasing after Robot.
BOOF
and they said they wouldn't bother me when I'm working.


I'm glad we'll be sharing this room together, Kat.
yeah, me too!
It doesn't matter how much stuff changes...
I'm just happy to have you here with me
a high five is in order.
Hi-5!
ahem.
you too, Renard.
Doggy-5!


ANNIE A LETTER HAS ARRIVED
ooh mail, apparently!
what is it?
omGOD. IS that what I think it IS?!
It IS!
what? what IS it?
It's a LOVE LETTER

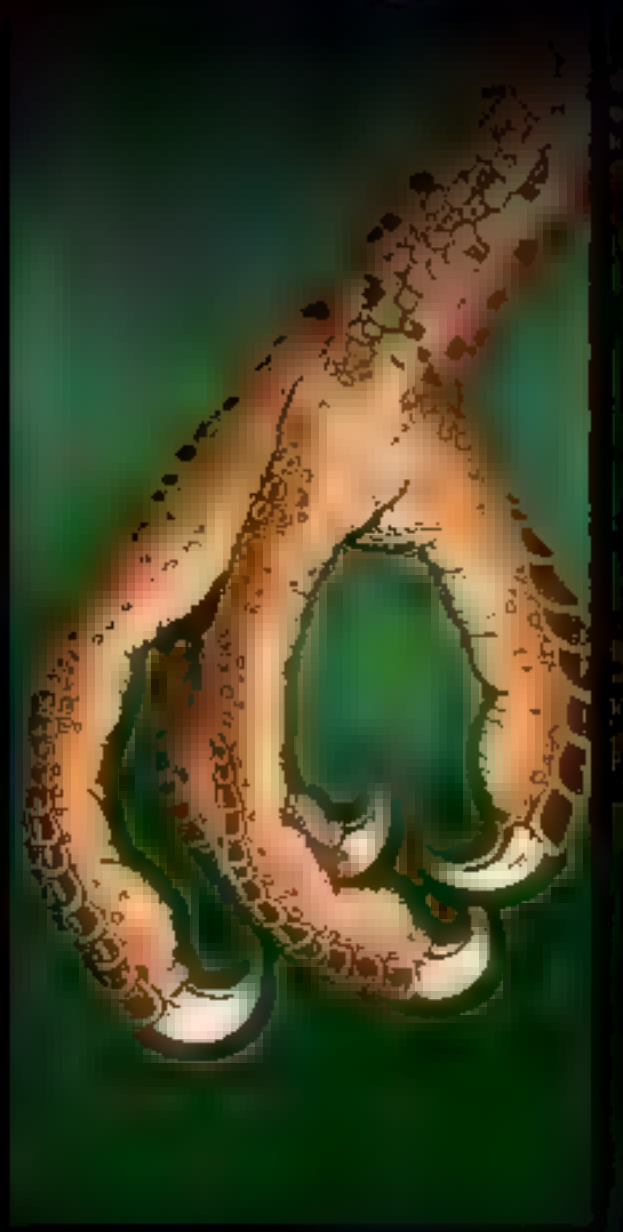

Kat
It's addressed to my room, but...
It's written to you.



Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 42:

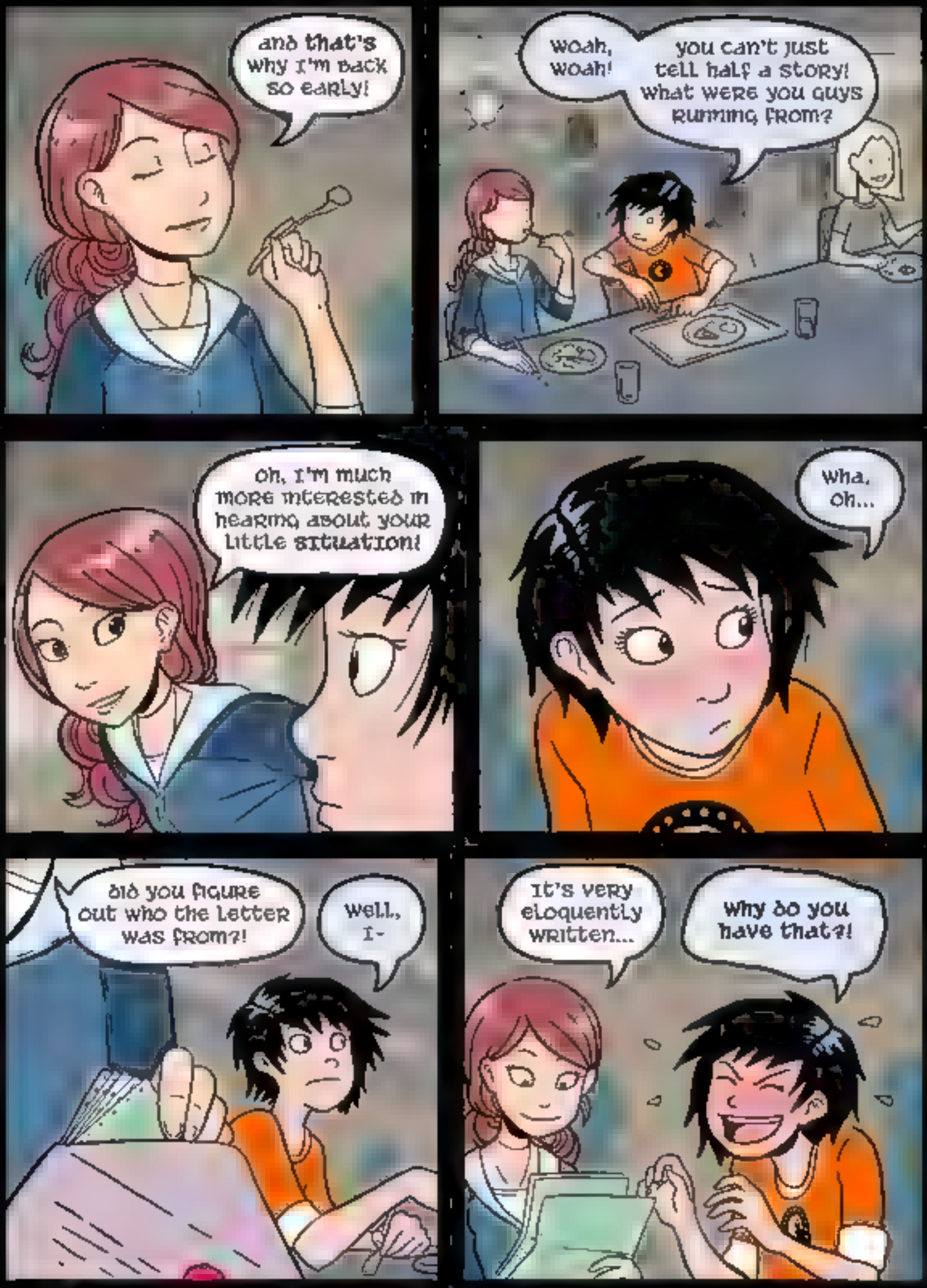
Catalyst

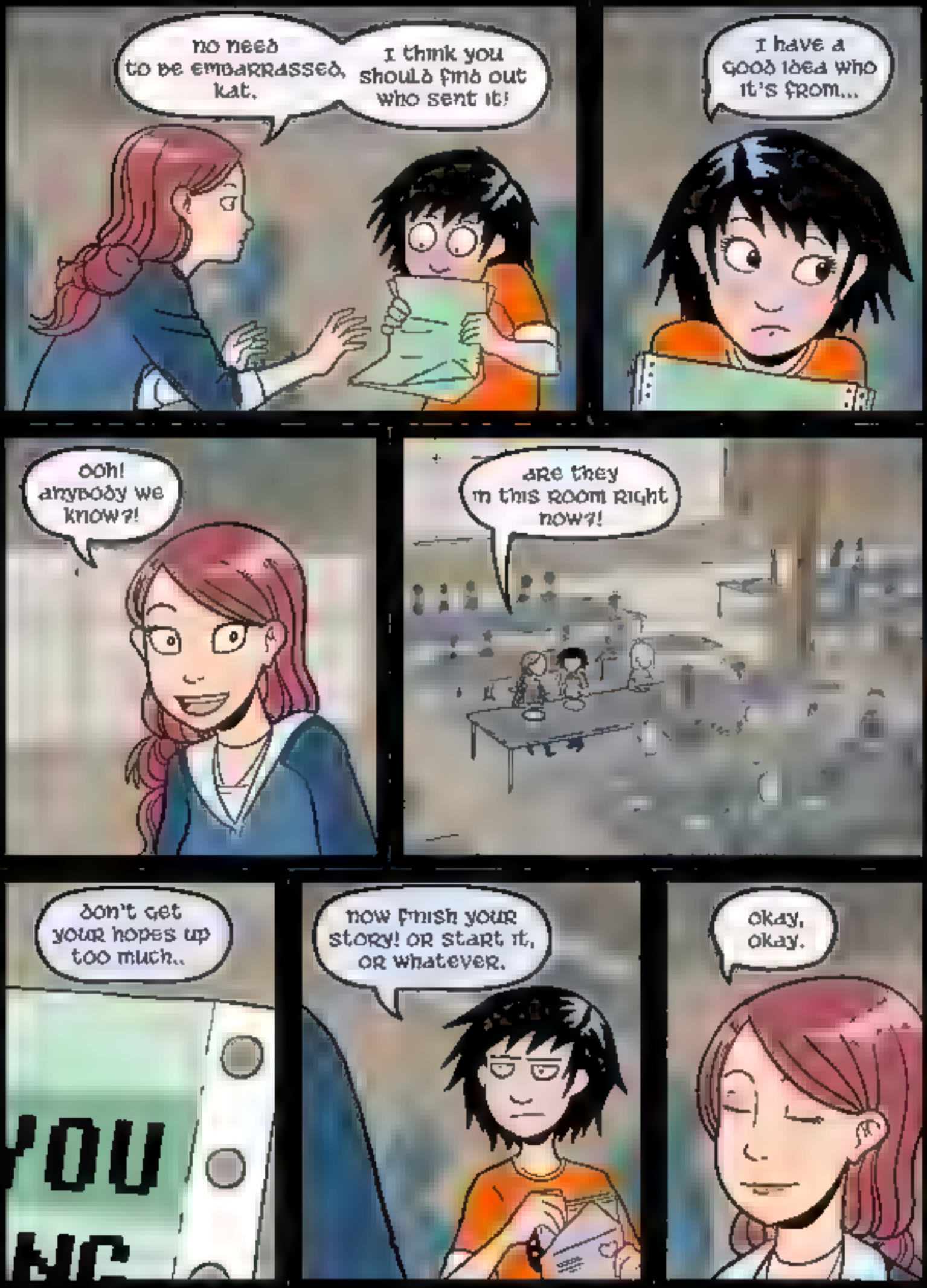



hahahaha!


why are you laughing?!
that didn't go exactly to plan!
has this ever happened before?!
never!
so I'll start off by showing you some of the tools you'll be using to help you perform your duties.
physical training will come later, but right now you shouldn't have your hands too full.


your primary role is support. even from a distance, you need to...
oh! Lucky!
be ready if-
carver! what happened now?!
oh, nothing too serious!
but I suggest running!


and that's why I'm back so early!
woah, woah!
you can't just tell half a story! what were you guys running from?
oh, I'm much more interested in hearing about your little situation!
wha, oh...
did you figure out who the letter was from?!
well, I-
it's very eloquently written...
why do you have that?!


no need to be embarrassed, kat.
I think you should find out who sent it!
I have a good idea who it's from...
ooh! anybody we know?!
are they in this room right now?!
don't get your hopes up too much..
now finish your story! or start it, or whatever.
okay, okay.


When Eglamore heard I wanted to give Andrew an unofficial introduction to the forest, he insisted on tagging along
you can't just sneak off whenever you want
when in the court, you still have to follow their rules.
besides, have you forgotten what happened with Ysengrin last time?
we're not intending to run in to him today. or coyote.
and with Andrew around, luck should be in our favour!
well, okay, but only a quick visit.
okay. back soon!


Wow, this is pretty crazy
I've never been in a real forest before. I've spent my whole life at the court.
It's beautiful, isn't it?
Will we see any animals?
Well, I should warn you, I've been into the forest many times, but I've rarely seen creatures that didn't want to be seen
Oh, hello. You look friendly!
they are keenly aware of our presence, wary of any new intrusion into their terr~


a chickcharney!
a what?
remember, hardwick and little's bestiary, page 65? we went over it with jones.
why, yes, of course!
hello, I am the new medium, come from gunnerkrigg court
I don't know what that is!
but perhaps you might help me with something...
you see, long ago, a traveller presented me with a gift.
a shining sphere of unmelting ice!
trapped inside were brilliant colours from the rarest flowers...
alas, I have misplaced my treasure and-
did it look like this?


yes! It looked just like that!
It's called a marble. I had one in my pocket
here, you can have it, since you misplaced yours
oh! so kind!
so very kind!
thank you!
no problem!
I wondered what that marble was for. Had it in my pocket for a week.
helping a chickcharney brings good luck, you know!
are you sure you need any more good luck?


hey, look!
this must belong to that little guy.
guess I'll just hold on to it
Rustle
Snuffle
hello! it's me again!


hello again!
I wonder if you could help my friend here.
you see, she wishes to know when spring will come!
spring?
uh... I guess technically it starts in two weeks
fourteen days?
you hear that? ten and four days!
didn't I tell you they were very helpful?
Snuff!
oh look, I found this.
now you have two!
oh...
oh my!
thank you so much!
please wait here!


Look! I brought more friends in need!
this one buried a store of precious nuts, but cannot find it!
oh, uh... I think this might be it?
these fairies have gotten into a scrape!
I done turned 'er head into a slug an' now she's a-stucked!
um... well a four leaf clover will break a fairy's spell, here.
yow!
I wants a husband!


forget her! I gotta make some wings or I's gonna fail my class I am!
can you use this sweet wrapper?
it's perfect!
a bear with a thorn in his paw!
uh! here...!
groo!
a floating octopus!
I think you really should be in the ocean...
so that's what I been doing wrong!
a gnome looking for a wife!
oh, let me introduce you...
a sad horse!
cheer up!




wheee!
the time!
aaad!
here!
I broke my
I want three wishe
I forget where I live!
fladaa!
beh-beh!
I saw a bird!
squaawk!
I'm tryin
lose
ight!
I wish there more happiness world!
BBB!
I need more sons!
gotta help!
BROOO!
a witch put a curse on me!
RRRRR...
eek eek!
I'm always
fwerr!
Baad!
just one!
I need put a curse on someone!
ack!
mrooch!
BLORB!
GRonk!
bLaaaa!
ornk!


annie was laughing her head off, but you looked so shocked, babe!
can you blame me?! what a way to be introduced to the forest!
hahaha!
well, just wait 'til you spend some time with coyote!
there must have been something about your... abilities, that really resonated with those creatures.
but I was really impressed with the way you were dealing with them. I think the court made a good decision making you the medium.
thanks, annie.
I think I might need a little more time learning the inner workings of the forest, however...
then we can set up a proper introduction!


I'm pretty excited about the training I have coming up...
I think it's exactly what I need to face Jeanne
you're still going to go through with it?
Of course.
When I'm ready .
Well, when you are, you won't be alone.
I want to do whatever I can to help too.
haha, with you helping, dad, luck's gonna be on my side!


Say, where is kat anyway?
Oh, she said she had something to take care of


kat! you have not been here in a while...
hey, paz. yeah, I guess so.
uh, is bobby around?
um, yes! he is inside looking after the mice while I clean their cages!
okay, thanks


good day, miss.
hi, bobby.
say, did you write this letter to me?
oh.
yes, I did.
yeah, look, it's really sweet and everything, but I just can't accept it.
you should know it's not...
you know, it's against the
you know...
I understand, miss. there is no need to explain.
I apologise for overstepping my bounds.
yeah..


how did you know to address the letter to my friend annie's room?
miss paz informed me you had recently changed living quarters
yeah, that's what I figured.
well, I should go. sorry about all this
please do not be sorry, miss.
yeesh.
did you talk to bobby about the letter?
yeah, poor guy.
haha, I guess it's no surprise, the only time I get a love letter and it's from a robot!


oh... then he didn't tell you...
tell me what?
do you remember the night we all went out?
when you were so nice to me?
I kept thinking about that night and thinking about... you.
then... I heard you and annie were moving into the same room and I was surprised at how jealous I was!
I wanted to tell you how I felt, but I could not even do that...
so I ask bobby to write a letter for me..
the letter was from me, kat.


you.
I know you and annie are just friends!
I can't explain why I felt like I did ..
but .
these past few months have been a little difficult..
I..
thinking and worrying, over and over!
huh!
but. I meant what I said in the letter, kat
I think you are funny, and smart, and so kind.
and I decide to stop worrying and see what would happen.


so I... just wanted to let you know.
paz.
and maybe... if you wanted...
we can go out some time?
together?
yeah. okay

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 43:

Quicksilver




Knock
Knock
Renard,
we're heading
off to class
now


very well, have a good day
oh, I might be out when you return.
you wouldn't be up to anything suspicious, would you?
you know me so well, child.
haha! okay, just don't stay out too late.
see you later!


Good day, Lindsey
OUT AND ABOUT TODAY RENARD
Indeed I am.
LIFT




ape
ape
Scratch


Oh Reymarôme!
Reymarôme, darling!
Clop
Clop
Good day, Hetty.
my dear I have been looking simply everywhere for you!
you must help me again today!


up to more acts of unspeakable evil today, hetty?
oh reynarame, you are such a tease!
you know very well I love to speak of it!
now be a good boy and make yourself more presentable
there now
Clop
Clop
my dear, let me tell you of this wonderful substance!
It is called glass fiber
this past week I have been placing the tiniest amount in adam's bed sheets.
the scoundrel is purely miserable and has no idea why!
ah, very crafty, hetty


so you persist in tormenting him?
of course! you know I can never forgive the evils he has done to me...
we are not all as fortunate as you, Reynardine
we do not all have a simpering mistress who allows us to do as we please.
hmm.
you know full well Adam has been a terror to me, which is why I beg for your help in obtaining a few objects for my next plan.
very well, very well.
but first we must make a stop.


DANIELLE
SCHIFF


but if I take his body .. he could die!
oh renard, you cannot be sure that will happen!
you are the one that accepted this power.
you are the one who loves surma.
you are a GOD, renard!
will you let her get away?
hullo, renard. i'm just doing the evening survey.
need anythin'?


surma...
danny?
no, it's me... Reynaraine!
sssigh


BORED, hetty?
how long are you going to feel sorry for yourself over this man?
It's a most shameful sight.
I killed him.
SO? you also killed that other creature, right?
the large dragon-thing you told me about.
It was an orjak called sivo. I bested him in a fight.
It's different.
whatever.
you had a powerful body.
what do you care about the one human life it took to get it?
...


If you hadn't wasted the opportunity, you'd not be stuck as you are
Indeed, I say there are other... options open to you.
this little mistress of yours.
part fire elemental, you say?
Imagine if you had access to that power, Reynarame...
and you came so close to taking it for yourself!
I've told you how I will always regret that day.
It was your hesitation that ruined you. now look at you, at her beck and call.
a mere slave.


antimony hasn't issued me an order in a long time...
are you sure about that?
haha! okay, just don't stay out too late
well... I mean~
ha! I thought as much!
and of course, she ordered you to never attempt an escape
oh! you should kill her!
the court made her order that. otherwise I'd never be allowed to walk around unmonitored.


I can't harm her m any way.
oh, you know I would help you, my darling!
thankfully the terms of my contract are not so limiting, thanks to his s ster, I can play my little tricks on adam as I please!
to what end, hetty?
until I have repaid him for the pain he has caused me!
how he has trapped me in this cursed body!
and then, when I have had my fun...
which is why you must use those wonderful lock picks of yours to help me obtain a few things...


SUPPLY
catch!
pins are always useful!
oh! and we simply must have these!
matches are of course essential!
be a dear and carry this combustible fluid for me, Reynarôme!


no answer.
can we stop wasting time now, please?!
you were lurking around this place earlier, weren't you?
who lives here?
just an old friend from a long time ago.
must you walk around in that form?
If you want me to carry your ill-gotten items inside me, hetty, then yes
It's just so shameful, showing your mark so brazenly!


another thing, your smaller form is so impish and ridiculous!
couldn't you think up something a little more pleasing to the eye?
I'm sure you'd cut a handsome figure if you'd just try!
hmm.
ah! I know this area!
adam is nearby!


this is your terrible adam?
he's just a child! a mere wretch
I know! confounding, isn't it?!
look at him, forgetting all about his dear sister...
when she met with her little "accident", how was I to know she had secretly left my contract of ownership to her little brother in her diary!
hetty, are you saying this boy doesn't even know you exist?
of course he doesn't! I've been doing my best to hide myself from him.
just because he doesn't know about me does not excuse his neglect!
and for this I shall have my revenge... and my freedom!


ARGH! I can't stand to look at him!
the menace!
shameful!
I think you're taking this a little too far...
no! Reynardine! I'm not!
but enough is enough!
I need you to help me collect one more valuable item.
I have recently learned the location of a substance called ARSENIC...
ARSENIC? Hetty, that could kill the boy...


when I had taken sivo's body, eglamore eventually managed to capture me and trap me in one of their holding cells.
I was there for a long time...
I became desperate. I wanted to see the stars again.
so I broke free one night...
and that's where I met antimony. alone, out there on the rooftop.


but then I knew surma had passed away.
the world had moved on...
so much time had passed and there I was, a wasted life clinging to her memory.
It was the next day, when antimony found me in my cell, that I realised my chance to escape
a chance to have a new body, with access to her hidden power..
I was going to kill her.


yes! you should have!
you were so stupid to let the opportunity slip by!
It was eglamore.
he intervened before I could take antimony's body and I was forced into this one.
and such a shame it is, my darling.
It is a shame
CLATTER


I said I will always regret that day, but it's my actions I will regret, not the outcome.
Reynardine! you dropped all my things!
I can never forgive myself for what I tried to do.
I had already taken a life, and I was prepared to do it again...
this body is my shame.
and when she smiles at me, I feel the shame of that moment anew!
ack!


What are you-
CHOOF
You wouldn't dare!
GRaaaRGh!
Flick


you idiot! how could you?!
and when I wear this symbol, I wear it with pride.
ARGhhhh!!
CRUNCH


CLICK


hey.
I was out earlier had to cover for some classes last minute.
I visited daniel's grave today
I can't stay out too late.

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 44

Crash Course




are you sure about going in there on your own?
what about ysengrin?
I can't let him stop me from going into the forest... it's my responsibility now!
when I see him I'm going to ask him what happened.
¡hola chicas!
Kat, I have the game I was telling you about!


oh, aren't you going to come by and see mr. eglamore before we head out?
kat's always had quite a thing for him, you see!
¿ay, sí?
no! no i don't!
that was just a stupid thing when i was a dumb kid..
i don't. like, fancy him or anything!
wow! my whole world is shaken!
truly, the end of an era!
well, have fun, you two!
BUMP
i swear!


I suppose it's for the best if andrew sat this one out while I get a better handle on things...
he's got a ton of admm stuff to do anyway.
seems like being a medium involves a bunch of paperwork!
perhaps I dodged a bullet.
speaking of which. .
parley and I will be out here as usual, you're sure about this?
I'm sure.


do you want to ride on my arm?
no, thank you.
where's coyote?
he is hunting.
ysengrm, will you tell me what happened when I last saw you here?


what do you mean?
you, attacked me.
you looked ready to kill me.
I... do not remember that.
It was after I talked to coyote about his secret .
Shudder
my mind... is full of holes.
I can feel them, like dark gaps in my memory
this has happened before
sometimes I will learn I have misbehaved in some way, but have no recollection of it.


I want you to know I would never intentionally hurt you.
especially not now you are an honorary citizen of the forest.
okay.. I believe you.
but you are still weak.
of course.
and since coyote has seen fit to give you my job, you must become stronger.
which is why we have come here.

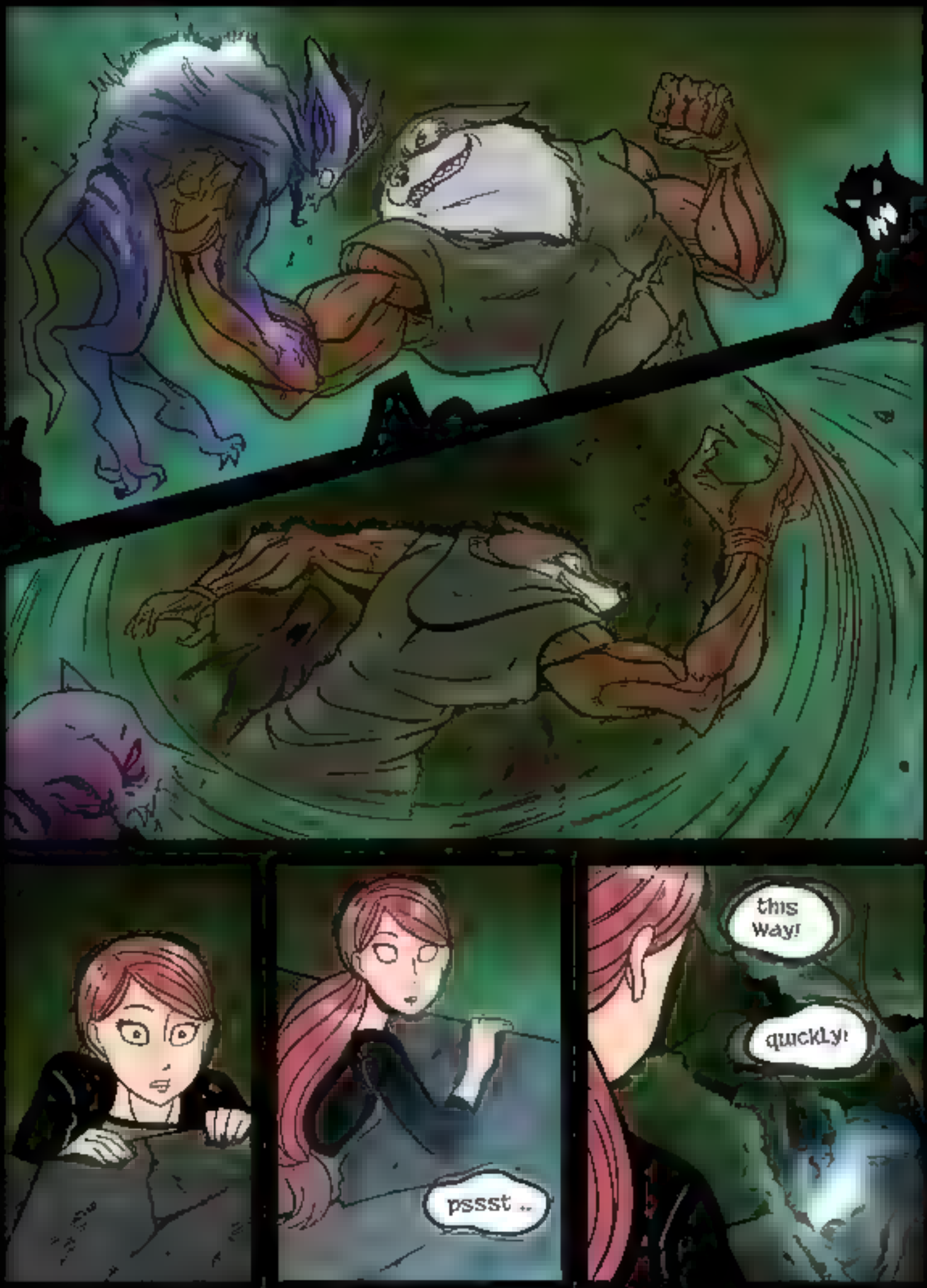

What is this place?
these are the last remnants of human buildings from before the divide.
they remain as a reminder.
people of the forest do not come here.
then why are we here?
because, as our medium, you must go where others fear to tread.


ysengrm
thought you'd forgotten about us
been a while
you bring a human here?
you are going soft
what happened to our proud general?


SSSSSSSSSS!
SLAM
she is not fully human.
she is here because she is the new medium of the forest.
you will show her respect.
HUH HUH
respect because you demand it?
respect because coyote demands it?
HE HE HE
HEH HEH
what do we care what she is?


you would not speak this way if coyote was here
ah, but he is not here, is he?
ysengrin!
GRARRGL
heh...


hahaha!
and you call me soft?!
CREAK
CRACK
Looks like you all need to learn some discpline!
GRUUUU


pssst ..
this way!
quickly!


we are safe here
who are you?
I am the spirit of these ruins
I am the seed bismuth


you made these buildings?
yes it saddens me to see my creations in such ruin
where did you come from?
I was created using the magic of the forest animals, the technology of the humans, and the nature of the forest itself
I was planted in the ground, in the hopes of making a place for everyone to live together
I grew so tall and strong!
but the humans relied too heavily on me ..
they willed me to grow too fast and I began to overtake the forest


the creatures of the forest were upset by this ..
and the fighting began
then coyote came
yes.
he divided the humans from the forest, and I was left to wither and die.
but you still grow strong on the other side of the divide.
the court is giant now. more buildings than trees in the forest.
oh! is this true?
you don't know how happy this makes me!


If you could take me back to my brethren...
you could hide me away in secret and I can travel with you across the bridge
you know about the bridge?


you're lying!


CLAMP
Oh hello, fire head girl!
Don't mind me, I'm just out hunting.


that's the pesky thing about wisps. always mixing truth with lies!
haha! and their legs get stuck in my teeth!
was anything it said true?
I'm sure some of it was.
oh, but shouldn't you be helping ysengrin? he's not as spry as he used to be.
how could I possibly help against those monsters.
I'm supposed to be a diplomat!
haha! so start speaking their language!
see you later!


Blink
Blink




the human!
get the human!






this was not how I wanted to do things.
but if this is the way to win your respect, then so be it.
If you require the services of a medium, I am happy to talk with you.
fire elemental..
tricky ones...
seen 'em before
sizing

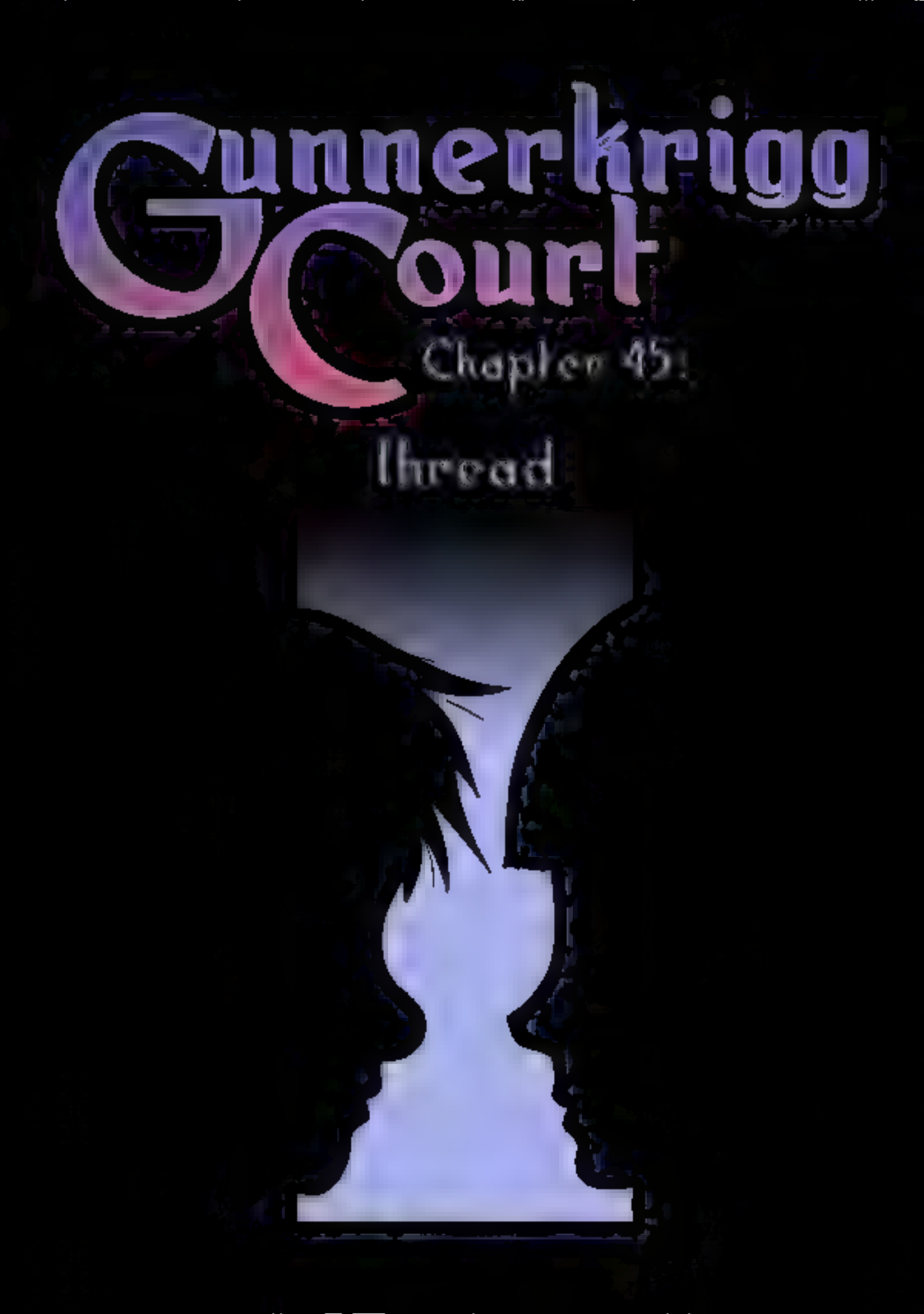

hahaha!
ysengrin, your face! hold still!
to see you standing tall, with your back straight, looking down on them!
the fire swirling around you!
I singed my clothes a little though...
hahaha!
beautiful!
you looked beautiful!
oh, well...


Lets rest.. a little while.
In truth, ysengrin, I was scared back there
haha, good. scared is good.
It sharpens your senses increases your resolve.
but you were lucky there was not another creature able to control fire there today.
hmm. might have complicated matters


When you come to visit me from now on, I can teach you about creatures like these
about the ways of the forest.
you should be better prepared for your new duties.
I'd like that
thank you, ysengrm.

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 45: Thread




CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
so this is where you spend all your time!
haha, yeah. It's a great place to get some work done.
I mainly use the room in the back for recent stuff
that's where we're gonna do the test once annie gets back from her medium stuff.


Oh, uh , I'm just gonna put this on.
okay!
Oh man, what was I thinking, bringing her here?
She's gonna be so bored. We could have done the test some other time!
what is this room?
ack!
ZZZIP!


It-it used to be like offices or something, but I use it for all my computer stuff now.
I'm kinda running out of space, haha!
It's uh, mainly for simulations, number crunching, that kind of thing
um... sorry, it's kinda boring!
no! I like to see it! you are so clever, kat!
oh uh.
It's nice and cold in here!
oh yeah, it has to stay cold, cos..
shut up shut up do not talk about server room cooling
I like the... noise
of the fans...
nice nice work
creator kat, we have acquired the node you requested.


oh, great. can you set it up in the free rack over-
halt!
this person is not recognised!
you are not authorised to be in this location!
what is your business here?
state your name and the name of your hairdresser!
woah!
cool it, guys! she's my friend!
oh. .
was it okay to just call her a friend?


She didn't seem to notice .
Oh no.
Is that what this is? Did I get the wrong impression?
Did she just want to be friends?
But she said she wanted to go out together...
But What if that's not what she meant?
All we do is hang out and stuff .
I I have to be sure!

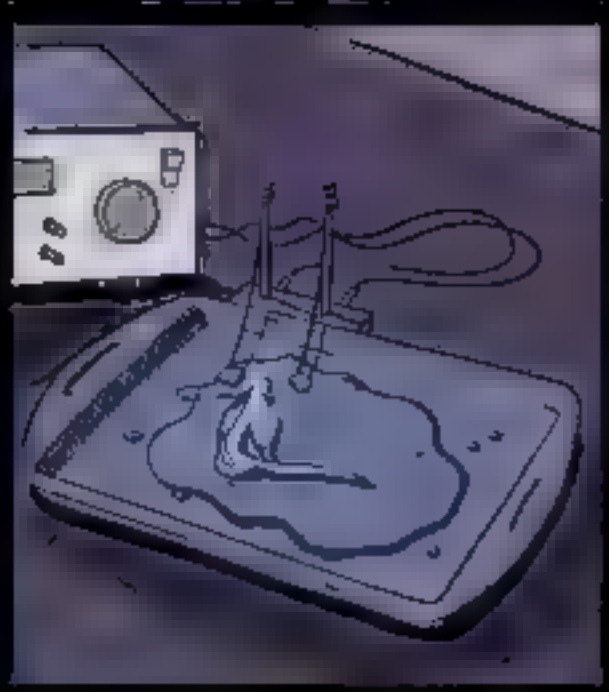
A few minutes of hasty planning later














huh? no! we're just doing reaction tests today...
I mean...
here, let me guide you through it
this is a muscle and bone structure I've been growing for a few weeks.
oh! it is almost like a bird wing!
yeah.
I mean...
that's right...
I'm finally at a stage where I should be able to get a response when I introduce an electrical current.
I could do with your... ass stance


did you not want to wait for annie?
oh I think we can manage..
just the two of us.
Flick
COUGH
COUGH
BLeah!
aaack! Gahh!


I ruined it!
Ick!
oh kat, I am so SORRY!
no no, it's okay... It was my own fault I was tryng to show off.
I should go, kat I need to get back to my animals
you do not have to show off for me, kat I am already impressed.
yeah, okay, I should clean-


hala,
I'll see you
later!
Waaaaait
wait,
wait.
Grab
PECK
not just
friends?
haha.


huh?
I-I better deal with that
Oh, she's running away...
Is that... anne?
LaterRRRRR


Chirp
Tweet
clink
annie!


man, all those weeks of work, fried.
eh, it was worth it!


ADM
hi, rey.
has annie been
by here?

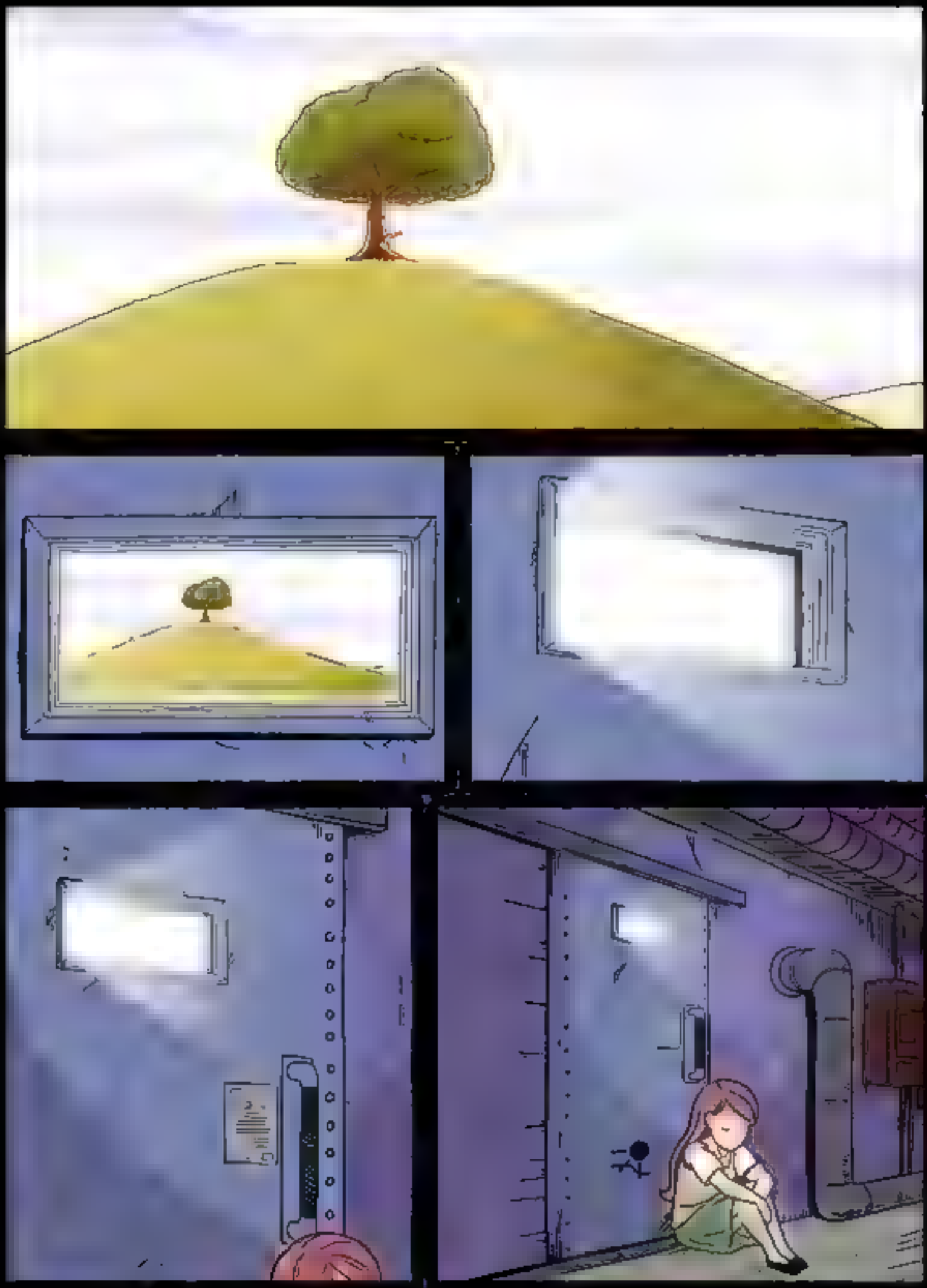

no.
Is something the matter?
yeah... she kinda ran away again.
ah. this is becoming quite the habit.
What happened now?
she uh... saw me kissing my girlfriend.
I see...
I see...
man, do not even start!


haha! I apologise!
but this explains a lot, katerina. you have been keeping this a secret for a while now.
geez, it was that obvious?
but why do you mention it so casually now?
It wasn't a secret secret... it just sorta happened.
but then annie saw me I don't care who else knows.
do you really think she ran away because of what she saw?
I dunno!
I had no idea how she would react!
that's why I wanted to talk to her when I was ready.


do you think I'm weird?
no, Katerina, I do not
but it's not . normal, right?
I understand what you are trying to ask. you are worried people will see you differently
and they might
every animal fears what is different, and humans are no better
unfortunately, humans are capable of such profound cruelty when confronted with their fears.
oh., great


humans will violently stamp out what they do not like and claim it does not exist.
however, a voice will never be silenced when it has something to say, no matter how much history has tried to stamp it out.
please remember you are not alone in your feelings, katerma.
no matter what anyone tells you, your choices are your own to make.
you're lucky. the court was founded by people who intentionally left humanity
the rules are different here and, for better or worse, the usual constraints of society do not really apply.
but annie
she was raised outside the court.
she might be a little more...
traditional.

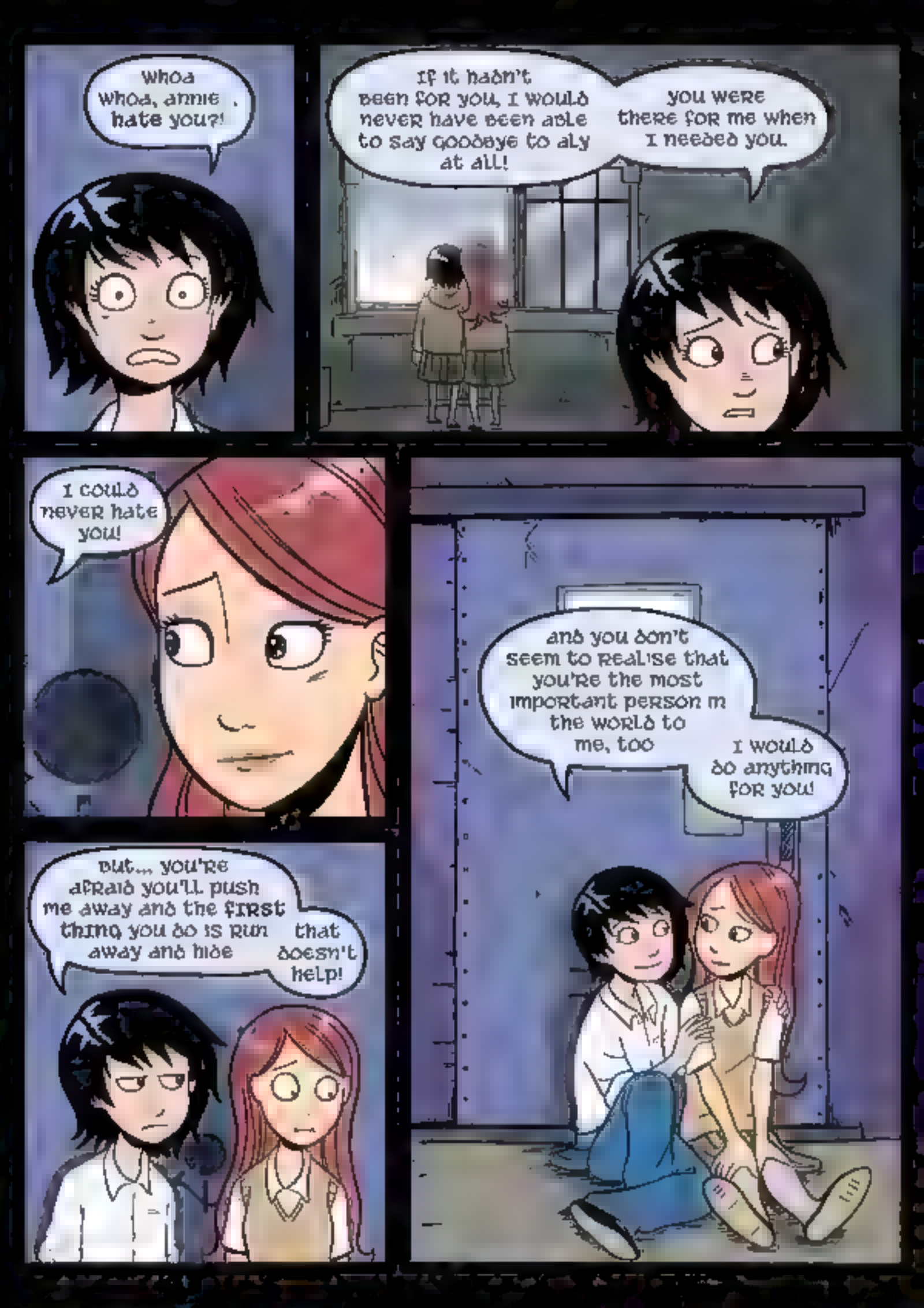

so you don't think I'm making a big mistake?
that is for you to decide.
though... I fell in love with a human female and look where it got me.
haha! oh man!
thanks for talking to me about this.
as a creature in this world, you will face many hardships in your life.
who you love should not be one of them.
Sniff Sniff
paz!
nice choice!



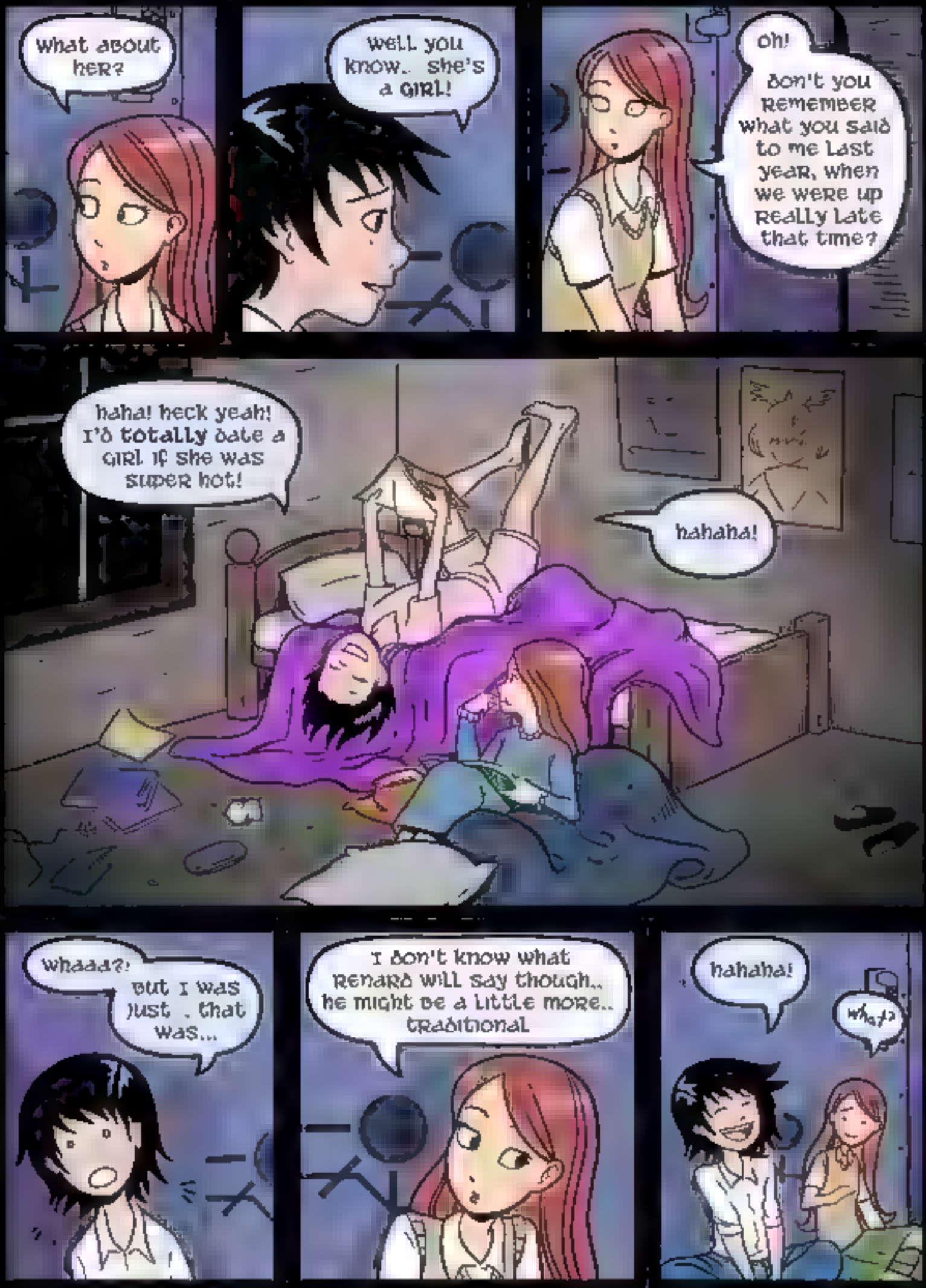

hey.
did you want to go inside?
no.
not over something like this.
I don't know what to say, kat
just tell me what you're thinking.
we can work it out

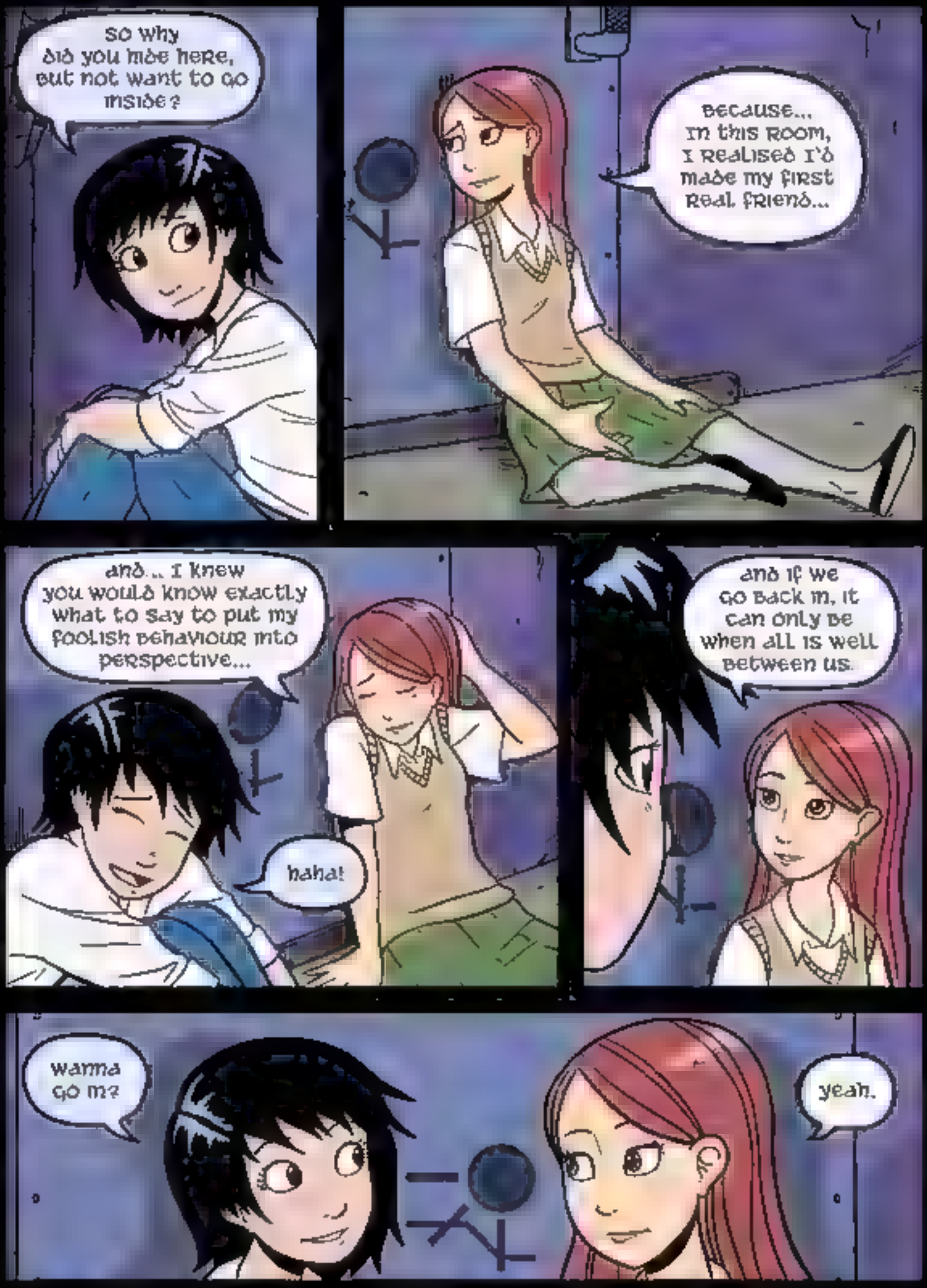

anne...
when that letter arrived for you, I was so excited.
of course I want you to be happy, kat.
but I suppose I don't really realise what it could mean
not until I saw you today
that's when it really hit me.
that you will one day leave me.


what?!
I know how selfish that sounds!
but you're the most special person to me in the entire world!
and I'm worried that I'll be the one to push you away...
but why would you do that?
do you remember alistair?
of... of course I do.
It was the first time we fought. because of how I acted.
I'm afraid I'll do something to make you hate me again.


Whoa
Whoa, annie . hate you?!
If it hadn't been for you, I would never have been able to say goodbye to aly at all!
you were there for me when I needed you.
I could never hate you!
and you don't seem to realise that you're the most important person m the world to me, too
I would do anything for you!
but... you're afraid you'll push me away and the first thing you do is run away and hide
that doesn't help!


and I'll do anything for you!
just because I'm seeing Paz doesn't mean I'll ever stop being your friend.
I'm sorry I overreacted.
CLONK
so, you were just worried we wouldn't hang out as much?
I... suppose so... yes.
that's a relief. I thought you were freaked out!
by what?
you know .. about Paz.
? ?
?


what about her?
well you know.. she's a girl!
oh! don't you remember what you said to me last year, when we were up really late that time?
haha! heck yeah! I'd totally date a girl if she was super hot!
hahaha!
whaaa?! but I was just . that was...
I don't know what renard will say though.. he might be a little more.. traditional
hahaha!
what?


so why did you mae here, but not want to go inside?
because... in this room, I realised I'd made my first real friend...
and... I knew you would know exactly what to say to put my foolish behaviour into perspective...
haha!
and if we go back in, it can only be when all is well between us.
wanna go in?
yeah.



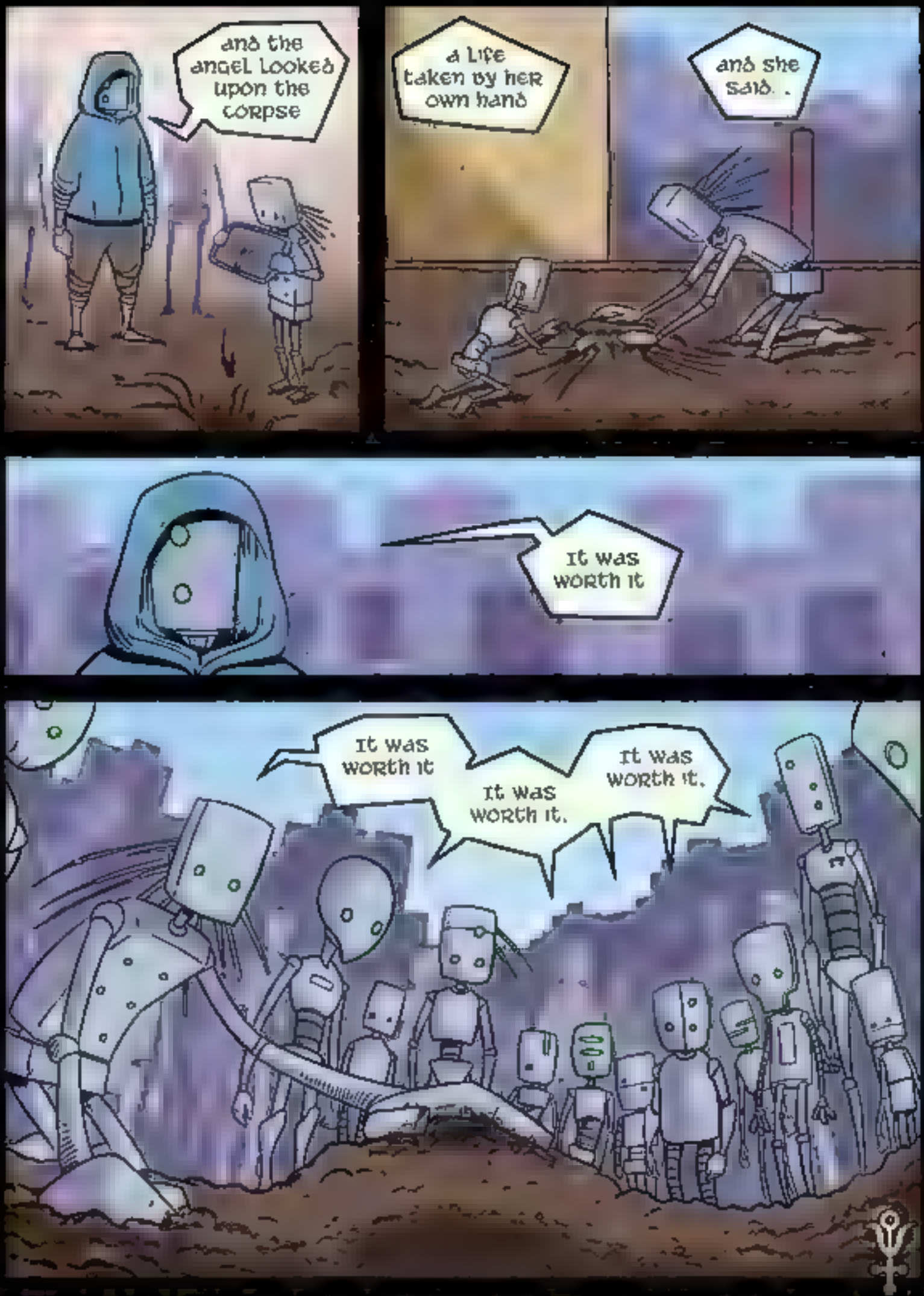



this is not a collection of broken circuits.

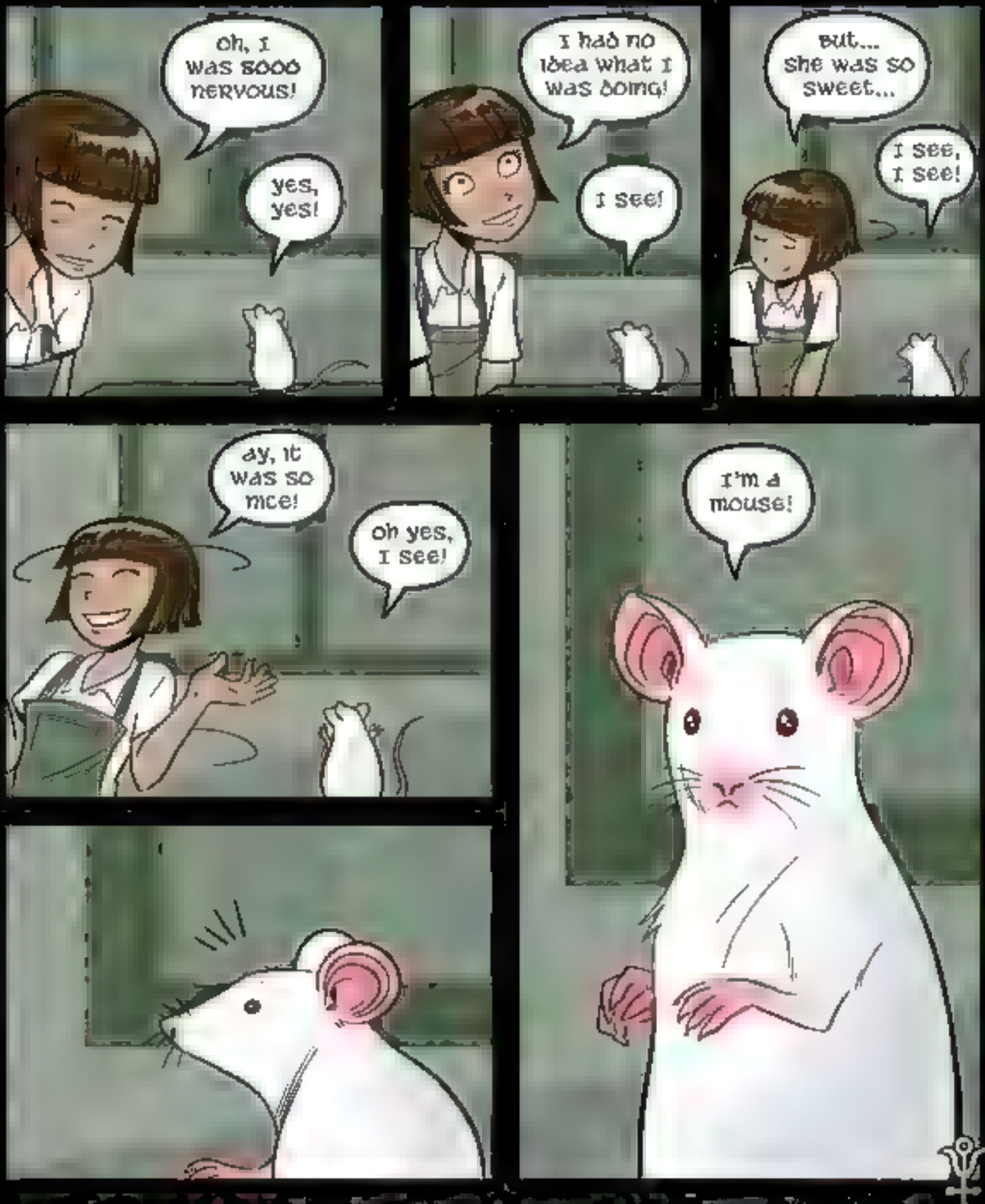

It is not a battered hull.


It is not shattered silicon


this is the first of us to die a proper death


and the angel looked upon the corpse
a life taken by her own hand
and she said. .
It was worth it
It was worth it
It was worth it.
It was worth it.

Squeak

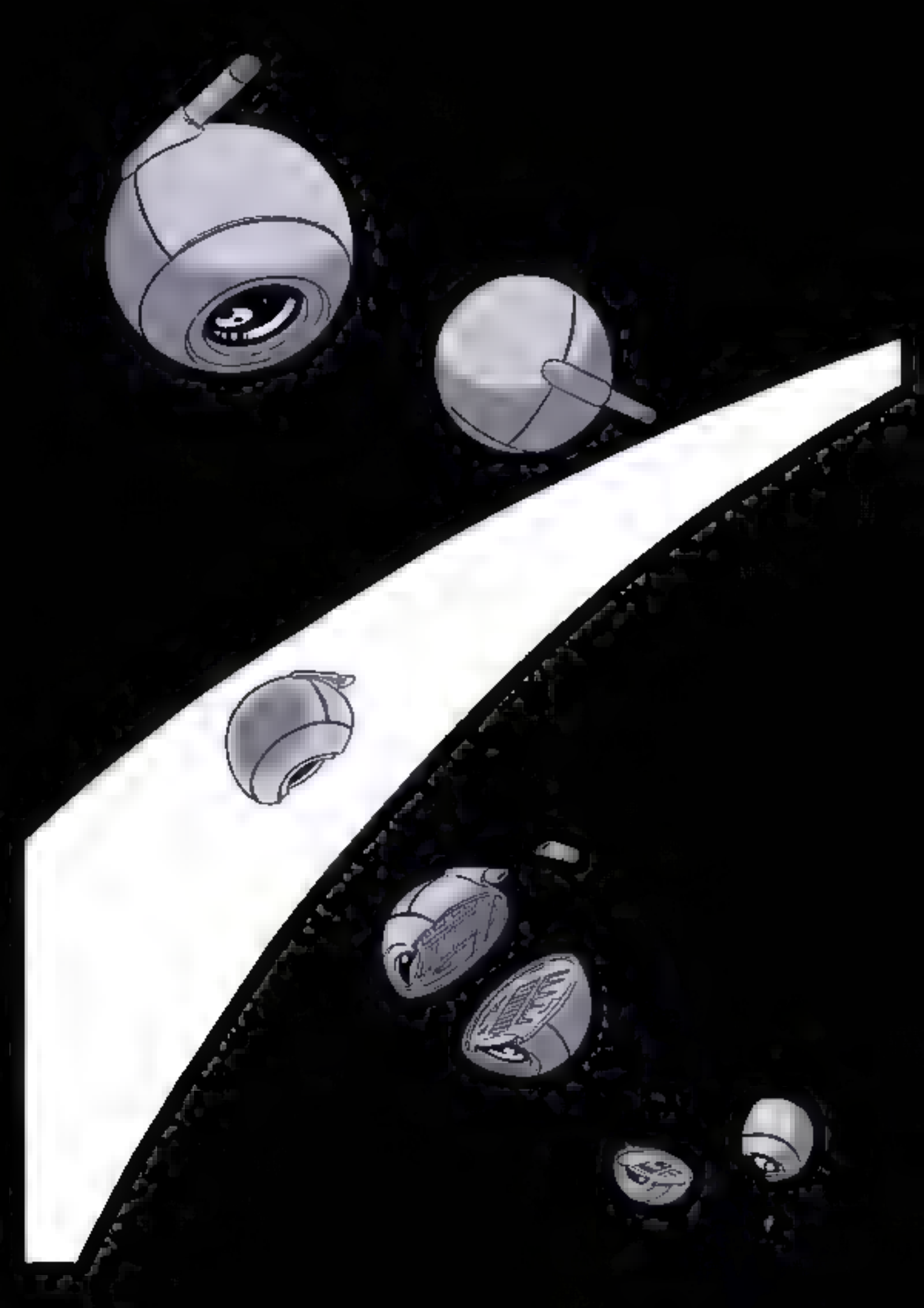

Oh, I was sooo nervous!
yes, yes!
I had no idea what I was doing!
I see!
but... she was so sweet...
I see, I see!
ay, it was so nice!
oh yes, I see!
I'm a mouse!

Gunnerkrigg Court

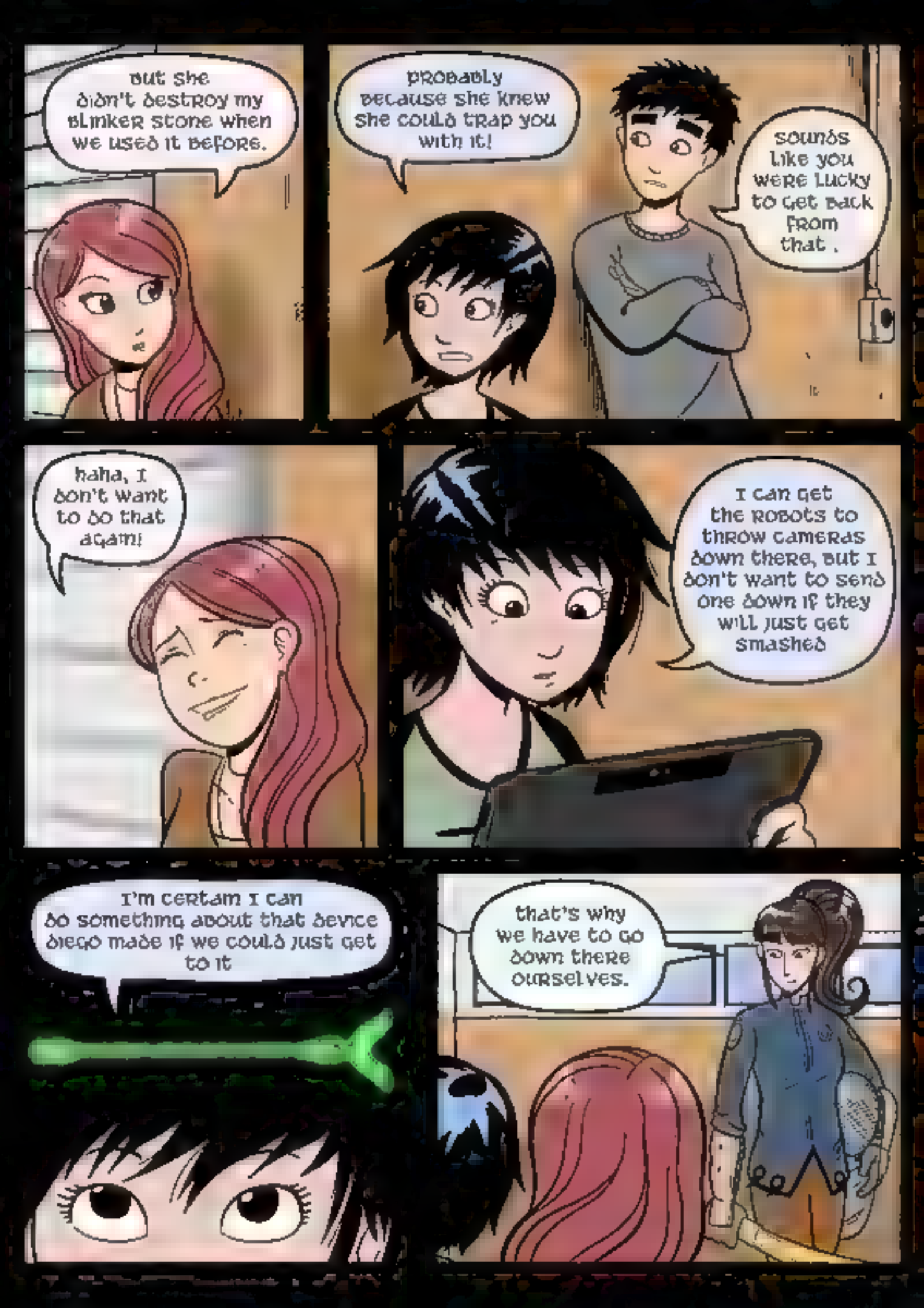
Chapter 46:

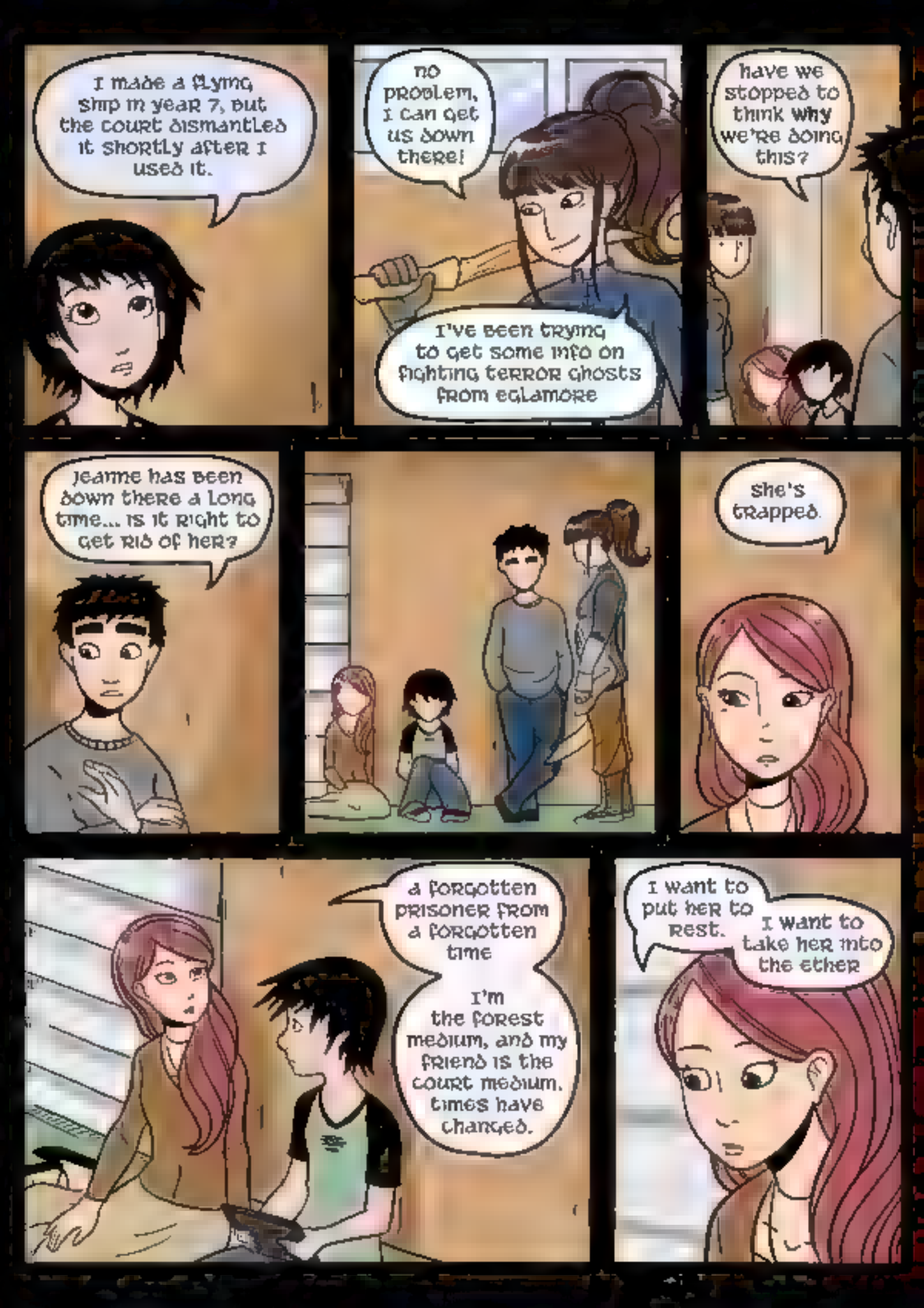
The Realm Of The Dead

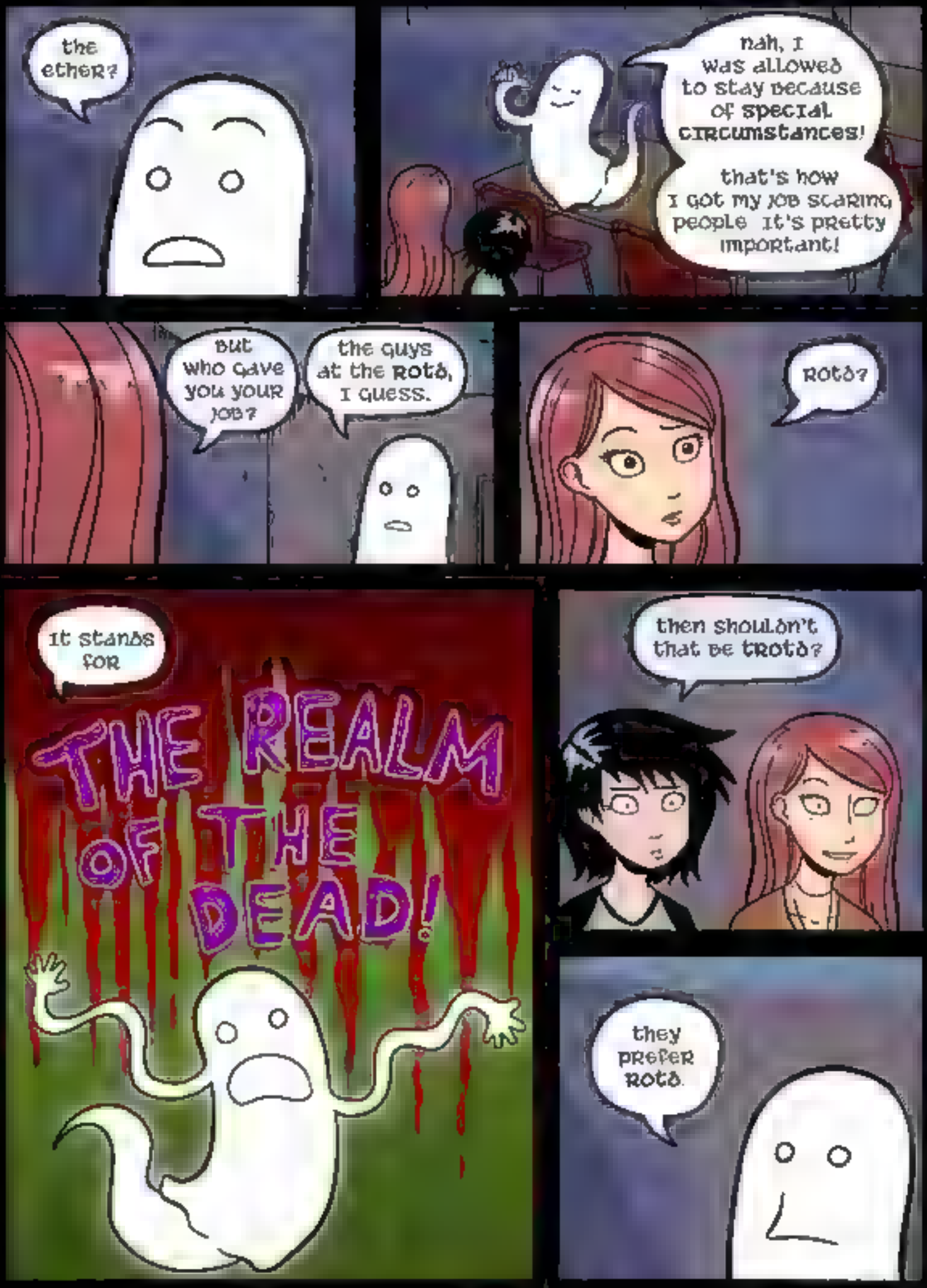





REW
SEL
SHARP
there she is.
every time we send a camera down there, jeanne destroys it before it hits the water.


but she didn't destroy my blinker stone when we used it before.
probably because she knew she could trap you with it!
sounds like you were lucky to get back from that .
haha, I don't want to do that again!
I can get the robots to throw cameras down there, but I don't want to send one down if they will just get smashed
I'm certain I can do something about that device diego made if we could just get to it
that's why we have to go down there ourselves.


I made a flying ship in year 7, but the court dismantled it shortly after I used it.
no problem, I can get us down there!
I've been trying to get some info on fighting terror ghosts from eglamore
have we stopped to think why we're doing this?
Jeanne has been down there a long time... is it right to get rid of her?
she's trapped.
a forgotten prisoner from a forgotten time
I'm the forest medium, and my friend is the court medium. times have changed.
I want to put her to rest.
I want to take her into the ether


the ether?
nah, I was allowed to stay because of special circumstances!
that's how I got my job scaring people. It's pretty important!
but who gave you your job?
the guys at the ROTD, I guess.
ROTD?
it stands for
THE REALM OF THE DEAD!
then shouldn't that be TROTD?
they prefer ROTD.

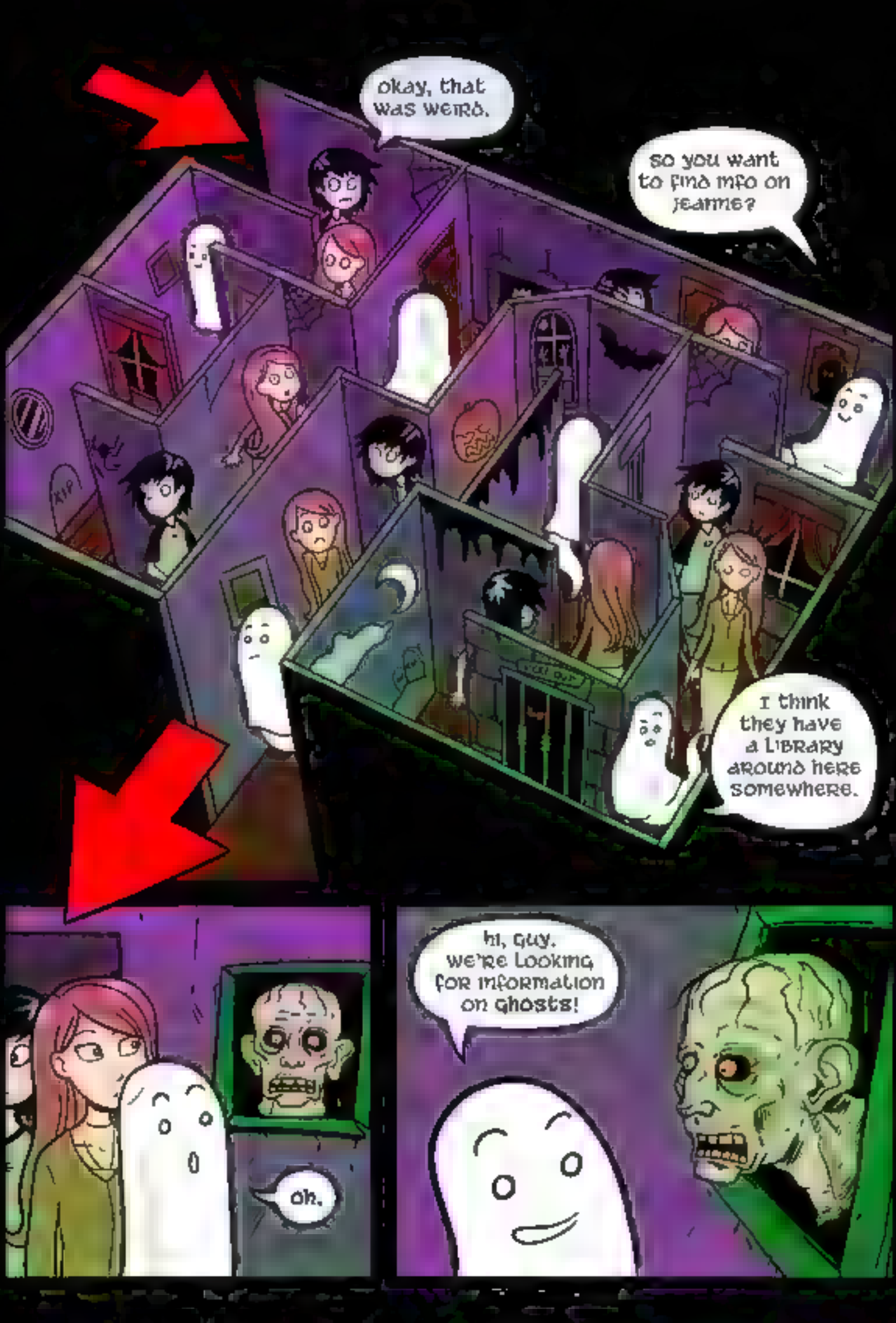

It's like a department that deals with people who died but didn't get taken into the ether for whatever reason
I've never heard anything about this!
because you're a living person! they keep records and listen to special cases and stuff
would they have information on jeanne?
I dunno.. maybe.
she is a ghost and all.
can you show us?
I can try!
oh man, we're going to see some kind of ghost dimension? awesome!
not very scientific, though.
hey, with this stuff I've learned to be amazed first and ask questions later


here we go.
that's the door we came in
you can use any door as long as you know the password!
I am...
a ghoooost!
BRRMM
CRE


Oh, MORT, it's INCREDIBLE!
heh!
?
RIP
Sliiiide
CREDENTIALS PLEASE.


oh, uh .. mort and two guests?
mort, you know there are no guests allowed.
who are these guys?
oh, gillitie medium and afterlife guide, huh?
well, keep your hands to yourself, lady! we don't need you bothering the staff!
um . yes, sir.
and you.
what's this, what's this...
I don't recognise this junk!


here touch the bat for verification
wha...
touch the bat!
credentials verified.
that means your credentials are verified.
awesome?
so .. what would happen if they weren't verified?
well you would be denied entry, of course!
unless you allow us to make you into a ghos
no thanks


okay, that was weird.
so you want to find info on jeanne?
I think they have a library around here somewhere.
oh.
hi, guy. we're looking for information on ghosts!


this way.
LIBRARY
this is the library? the only thing in here is this guy standing in the corner!
what guy?
can I help you?


we're trying to find out stuff about a ghost called jeanne.
oh, I know the case.
figures you afterlife guides would be sniffing around here. you still can't let this stuff go.
um...
anyway, you won't find anything about her here, you need special cases.
down the hall.
click
how did you know that creature was there?!
he was standing in the corner the whole time!


SPECIAL CASES
what the you again?!
can I help you?
still trying to find info on jeanne, dude.
you won't find anything here.
you need final records
but you said to come here!
what kinda scam is this?!


y'know final records is restricted...
RIP
but not to afterlife guides.
oh! helpful!
FINAL RECORDS

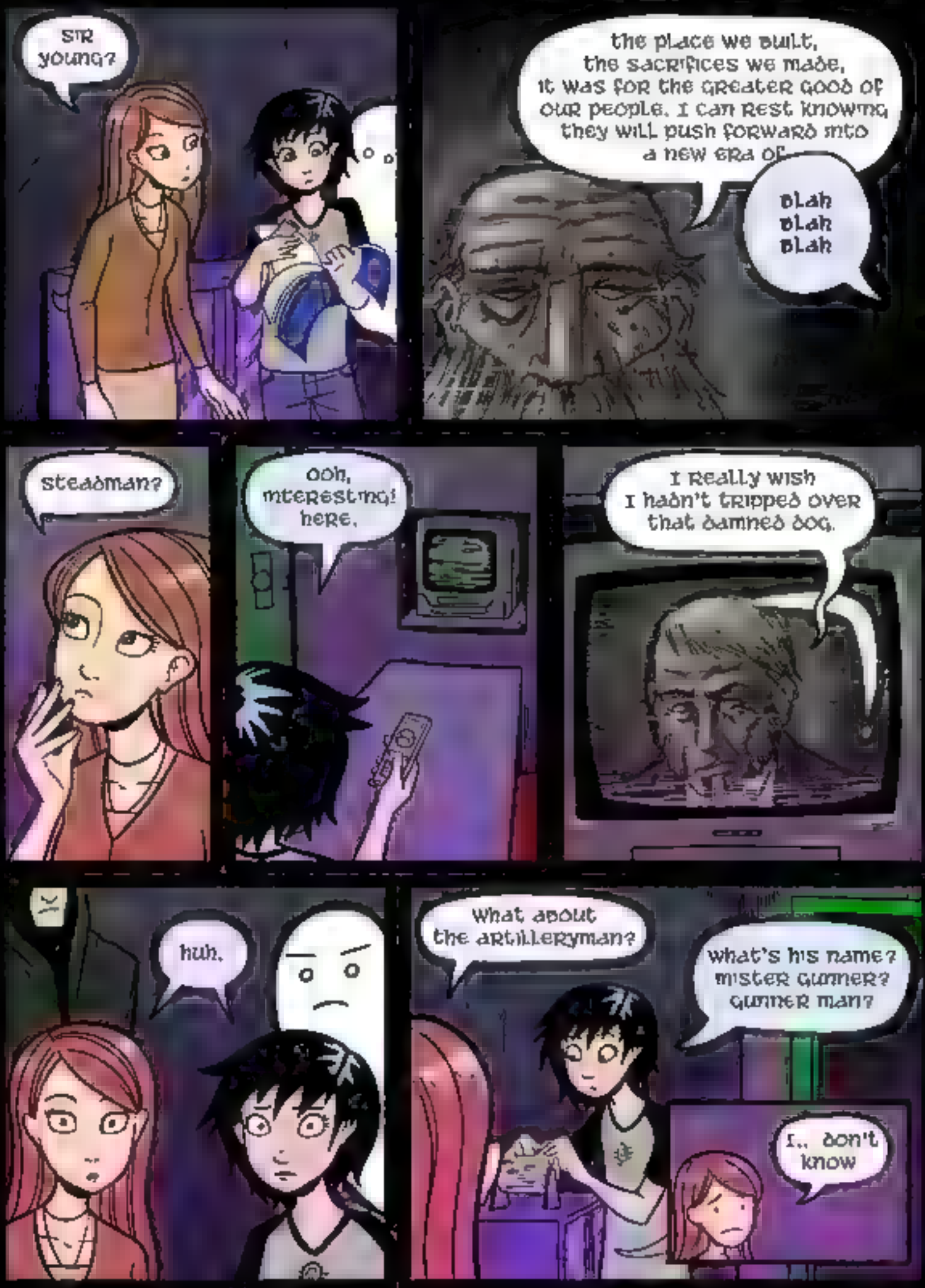

well, at least they have a book now.
even if it's just one.
kat, there are thousands of books in each of these rooms...
okay .. I think you guys are seeing something different than I am.
you can see this guy, right?
how do you keep doing that?!
what are final records, anyway?
she should be able to tell you.
I have no idea...
huh, and you call yourself an afterlife guide?
um... no?


these are the final recorded moments of those being taken into the ether.
then you can look for people who have been killed by jeanne!
how does it work?
sigh
the name of the ghost of the annan waters was recently discovered to be jeanne
that was us! we did that!
whatever.
so you use that name as an incantation with the scryer.
this rolodex?
then you summon the records from the vault of memory
you mean this cabinet? there's just a vhs tape in here!
wow, you must be the life of the party, kid.


okay .. so how do we summon the memories?
Shuffle
Clonk
of course.
Kat, the scryer said the book you found has records relating to Jeanne...
but it's written in a strange language
these are time codes, for the tape...
I mean, magical mystical memory machine... spell.
CLUNK
Wrrrr .
Kat you are blowing my mind!


I came to best the demon of the waters. In the blink of an eye I fell.
What... what happened? Am I... dead?
A flash of white light! I was run through... I did not stand a chance.
I was here only to retrieve my quarry. Make no mistake, the demon of the annan waters is swift and ruthless indeed. It marks no distinction between friend or foe.
That last one is particularly interesting. The day Lamet was lost
Lamet? Jeanne killed a psychopomp?!
Several, over the years.


...incredible speed...
...ruthless...
...a vision of terror.
I'm starting to realise that, no matter how good parley is with a sword...
facing Jeanne head on would be suicide...
does this diego guy have a final record?
uh... yeah, he does.
she died and I did nothing
seen it!
Click


sir young?
the place we built, the sacrifices we made, it was for the greater good of our people. I can rest knowing they will push forward into a new era of
blah blah blah
steadman?
ooh, interesting! here.
I really wish I hadn't tripped over that damned dog.
huh.
what about the artilleryman?
what's his name? mister gunner? gunner man?
I.. don't know


can we use this to look up... famous names?!
hey, you okay?
I wonder... if my mother is in here somewhere
surma...
stibnite..
oh..
um.
carver...
I can't find her
would you know how to find it, sir?
do you know which guide took her into the ether?
I did.
well then what are you asking me for?
you should have asked her if she had anything to add to the records yourself!

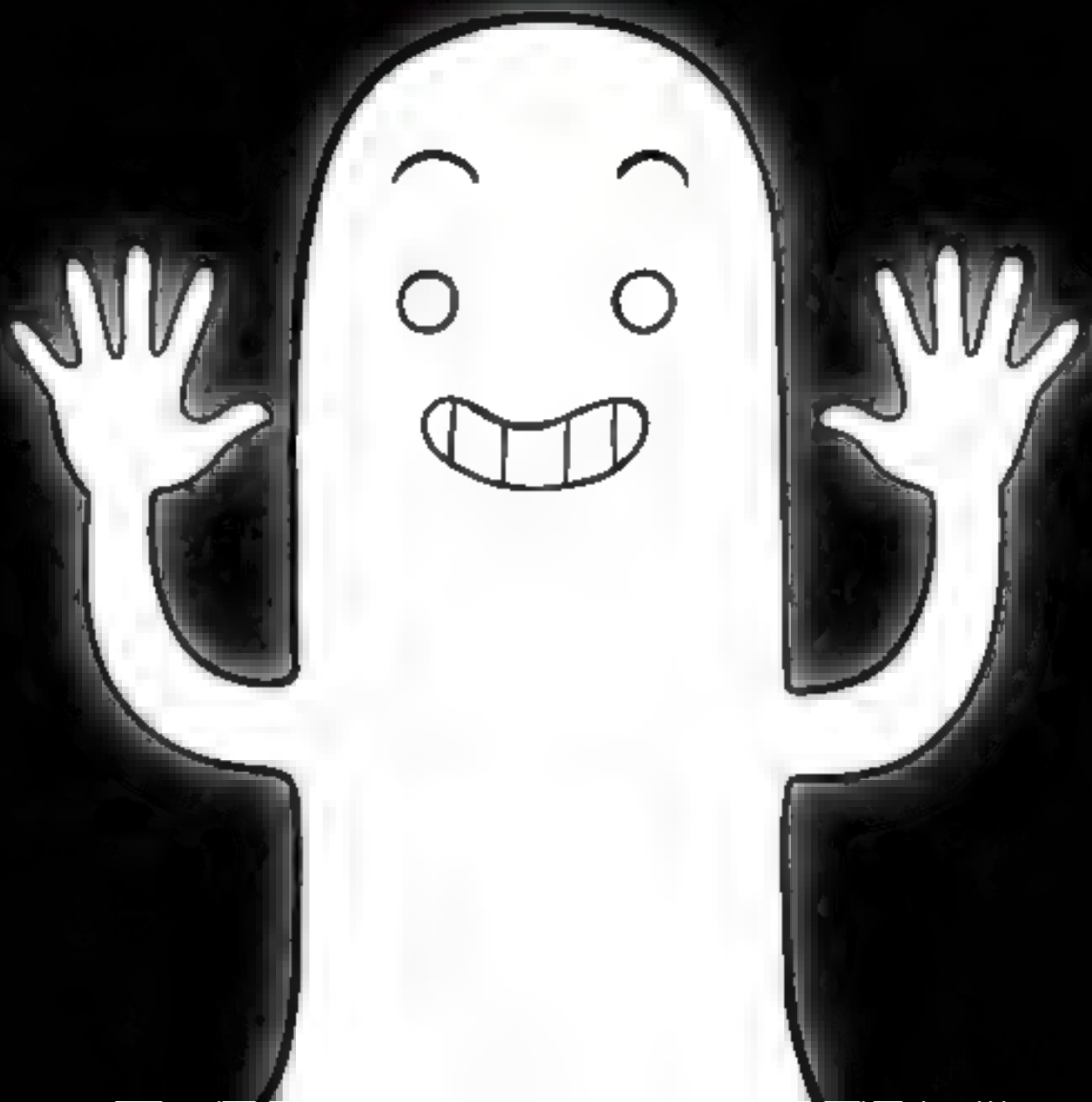

but... I didn't know about any of this
well don't blame me if you can't do your job right!
hey!
that's the problem with you guides! you only think of yourselves!
okay that's it! I've had enough of you!
get out of here!
but...
I said scram!
but... it's my room...
kat...
forget about him! he was just some crummy guy in a crummy costume.


but , he was right
oh annie, come on
If I'd known about any of this, my mother would have a final record...
so I have to do it right next time , with jeanne.
I know you can do it, annie
and to help you practice I want you to take me into the ether

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 47:

See Ya!

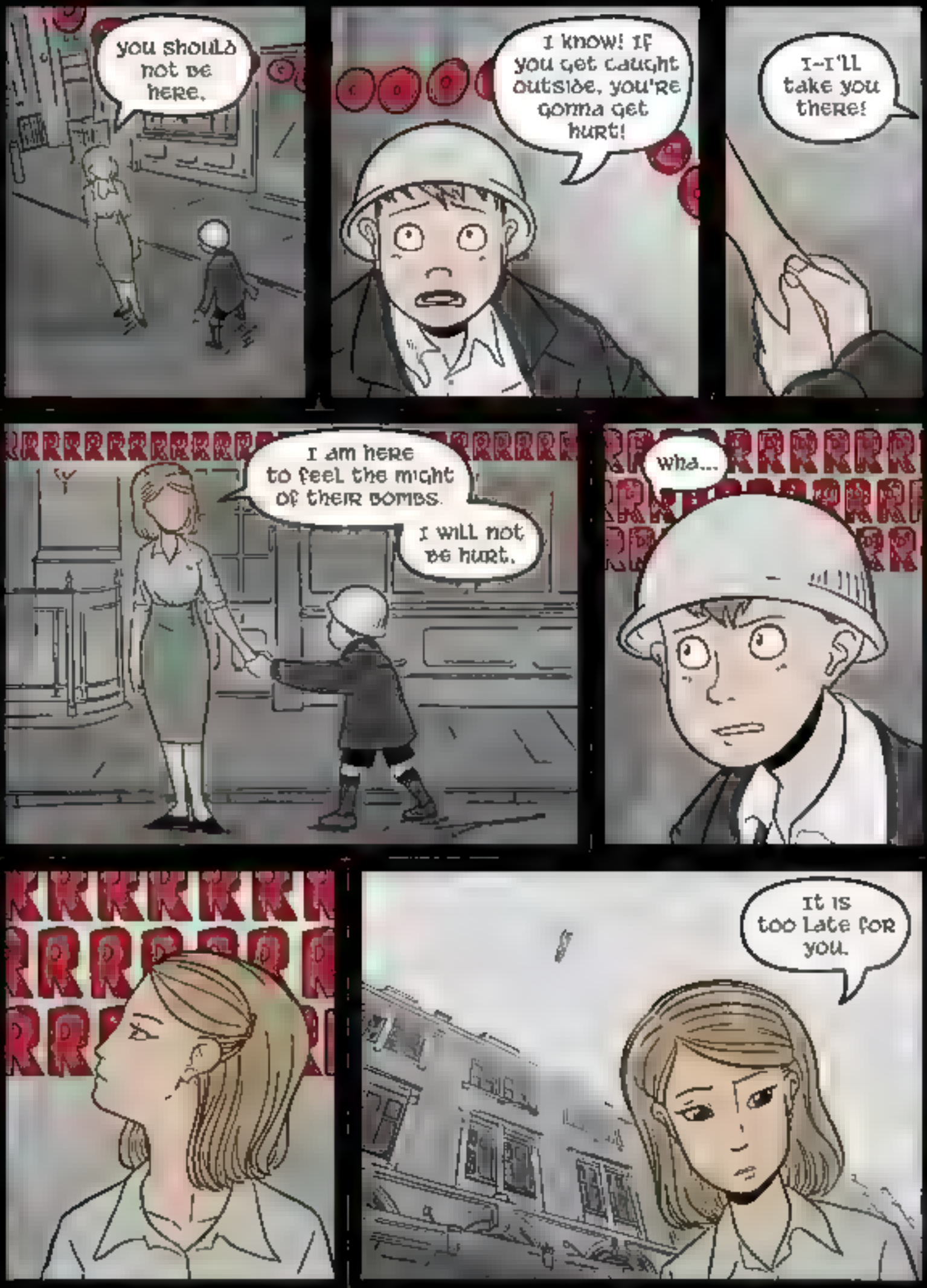


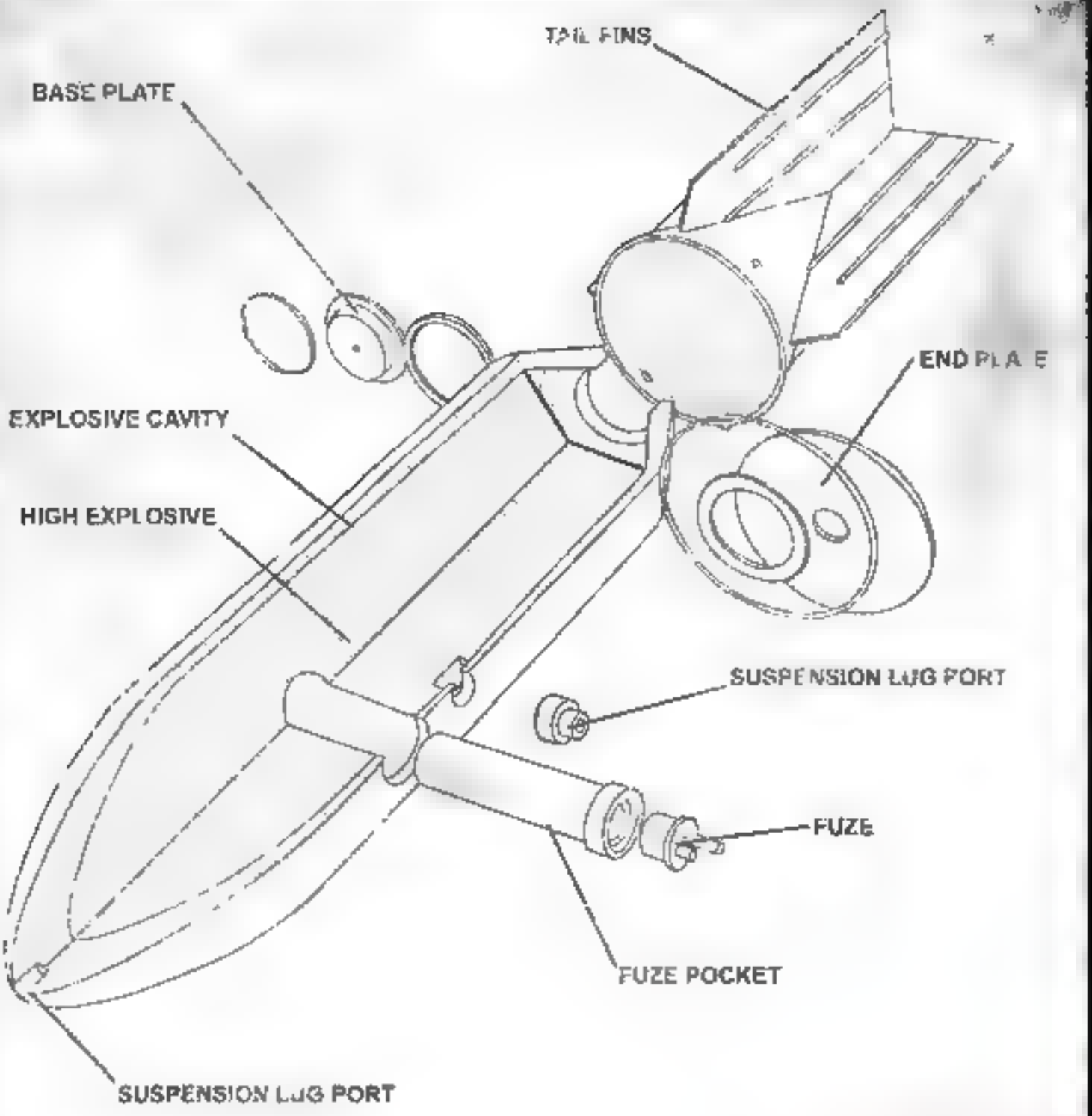

MOTHERS
Your children are
safer in the country
Send them out of


morty!
aright, betty. nigel.
aright mate. still waitin'?
yeah. my mum and dad are so busy in the mp, they're still lookin' for a place to send me
oh, morty, I know they'll find a nice safe place to send ya soon!
haha! I just wish I was old enough to fight them flippin' jerrys myself!
Heh!
you're so brave!
Honk Honk


ROOO
AIR ATTACK
YOUR REFUGE IS
113
ROOO
ROOO


hey!
you gotta get to the shelter! it's this way!
hey! you're going the wrong way, miss!


you should not be here.
I know! If you get caught outside, you're gonna get hurt!
I-I'll take you there!
I am here to feel the might of their bombs.
I will not be hurt.
wha...
It is too late for you.


TAIL FINS
BASE PLATE
END PLATE
EXPLOSIVE CAVITY
HIGH EXPLOSIVE
SUSPENSION LUG PORT
FUZE
FUZE POCKET
SUSPENSION LUG PORT


Wah!
Miss!
Miss, were you hurt?!
M-Miss?


mortimer, your time has come early.
ack!
ah!
old one, it is always a pleasure to be in your presence.
you are ankou. you have come for this boy.
Wha
these are busy times.
this is unacceptable. his death was my fault.
uh- but...I-


RUMBLE
CREAK!
okay, okay, what's going on here?
wonderful, the rota.
this boy was killed attempting to save me.
I wha..
It was an unfair and unjust death.
but... he's mine!
sorry, big guy, I'm going with seniority here.
we do have an opening aaat gunnerkrigg court.
I know the place. they are assisting with the war effort.


well then, come along with me, young man.
but .. what's going on?
we've got an important job for you, now that you're a ghost!
oh! yes, sir!
best of all, you get to choose what you look like! it can be anything at all!
wow! well.
I suppose if I'm a ghost, I better look the part.
I dressed up as a ghost once.
with a bedsheet and everything!
great choice!
CLUNK


mort... how could you ask me to do this?
I want to help you!
and... I've had enough.
you guys have been really great friends...
but, you're getting older, and I never will.
I think it's time for me to move on
oh, buddy...
I was going to ask you to do it anyway, so now's as good a time as any!
but! I need to make sure it's okay with the rota. my job is pretty important, so I gotta let them know I'm leaving.


I guess I gotta talk to this ankou guy too, but I don't know how to contact-
I am here.
hey, who said you could come ba-
ack!
ankou.
little antimony!
ah, but you are a vision...
ankou, mort has asked me to take care of his journey into the ether
so, you have decided to work for us after all?
I did not say that.
mort is my dear friend.


Is there someone I can talk to about releasing Mort from the obligations of his job?
this is a matter for the Rota, but I can take you to see his case worker.
thank you.
um, this may involve matters of a... personal nature.
official guide business.
do you mind waiting? I shouldn't be too long.
no worries. we can hang out here!
no need to go anywhere with your friend, there!


I was not aware of the final records procedure
technically a programme initiated by the Rota.
however, there are several trade secrets you might learn if you wish to work for us
I just want to help my friend. and one other.
Jeanne.
so you not wonder what draws you to her so? your desire to claim her?
I just want to help.


We are here about the young ghost, Mortimer.
Is Morty ready to go?
It is his wish.
But he wants to be sure it's okay to terminate his employment


mwahaha!
his job?
of course, of course! it's a useless position anyway!
but .. he believes his job is very important...
haha, no, no, that's just something we tell the young ones so they don't make a fuss
excuse me?
um...
are you telling me that you've kept mort trapped here... as a joke?


mort was free to leave whenever he wanted.
nobody told him that!
wait, who are you, anyway?
oops
oh, you're a guide too. of course you wouldn't understand.
then please, help me understand!
your job is to take people into the ether.
to wink them out of existence.
here at the rotd we give some of the unjustly dead the chance to make a difference before they leave ..


this is what I used to look like.
I never did much with my life, and I died before my time
But here I've -oof- been able to help countless spirits leave their mark on the world.
But why?
all this is just a creep show
smoke and mirrors.
But the ether makes it real.
It's how we keep the spirits alive in the minds of the living.
you just can't beat a good scary story!
But mort never had any of this!
he barely knew how to scare anyone when I first met him!
I know I know... he deserved more.
But there just wasn't a place for him
It was a busy time.


If the RotA is responsible for ghosts, how was Jeanne allowed to stay?
Jeanne? Oh, the girl by the Annan Waters.
Well, not every ghost is one of ours.
But in Jeanne's case, someone at Gunnerkrigg Court made some kind of device...
I think I know the device you mean.
It tore through the RotA and caused a great deal of damage
We aren't the only department affected. Whoever built the thing knew exactly what they were doing.
specifically pertaining to the woman called Jeanne. It was so bad we can't even access her records directly at all.


has there ever been an attempt to disable the device?
CREAK
yeah, of course but we're very limited in as far as how we can mess with stuff in the living world.
and the thing is just too powerful for us.
attempts to claim jeanne in the past have resulted in fatalities, even amongst our ranks.
yeah, I'm surprised to see the guides are still working on it.
I'm going to find a way to end this once and for all.
that's great!
our departments don't always see eye to eye, but in this case we're happy to have your help.
the way that girl's been bound to the river like that, there is no rest for her.
she can't even be taken into the ether and set free


Look, I'm sorry about mort.
he's a good kid, and he got overlooked.
thank you.
for the record, you make a lovely vampire
mwahaha!
PAF


HAHAHA!
CREAK
there you are!
is your scarecrow friend gone?
yes ankou gave me some pointers
mort, i talked to the rota and they said you've done a really good job.
they are all very proud of you.
phew!
great!


What have you two been up to?
Oh! Check it out, I'm going to leave a final record!
Yeah, that guy in the cloak came back and let us use this junky old camcorder and a blank tape.
I just got done setting it up
GiiAAH!
It was really weird...
So, now what?
Well, it has to be done before I start to take you into the ether.
Kat?
Ready when you are!
GRRRR


so!
hi!
my name is mort and I wanted to say thanks, I had a really good time!
being a ghost was pretty fun, but I hope the people I scared don't feel too bad about it!
oh! and I want to say thanks to my friends, annie and kat!
come on, you guys!
oh, I don't know if we are allowed to...
sure you are! it's my record!
thanks guys, I love you both!
I guess that's it!
see ya!

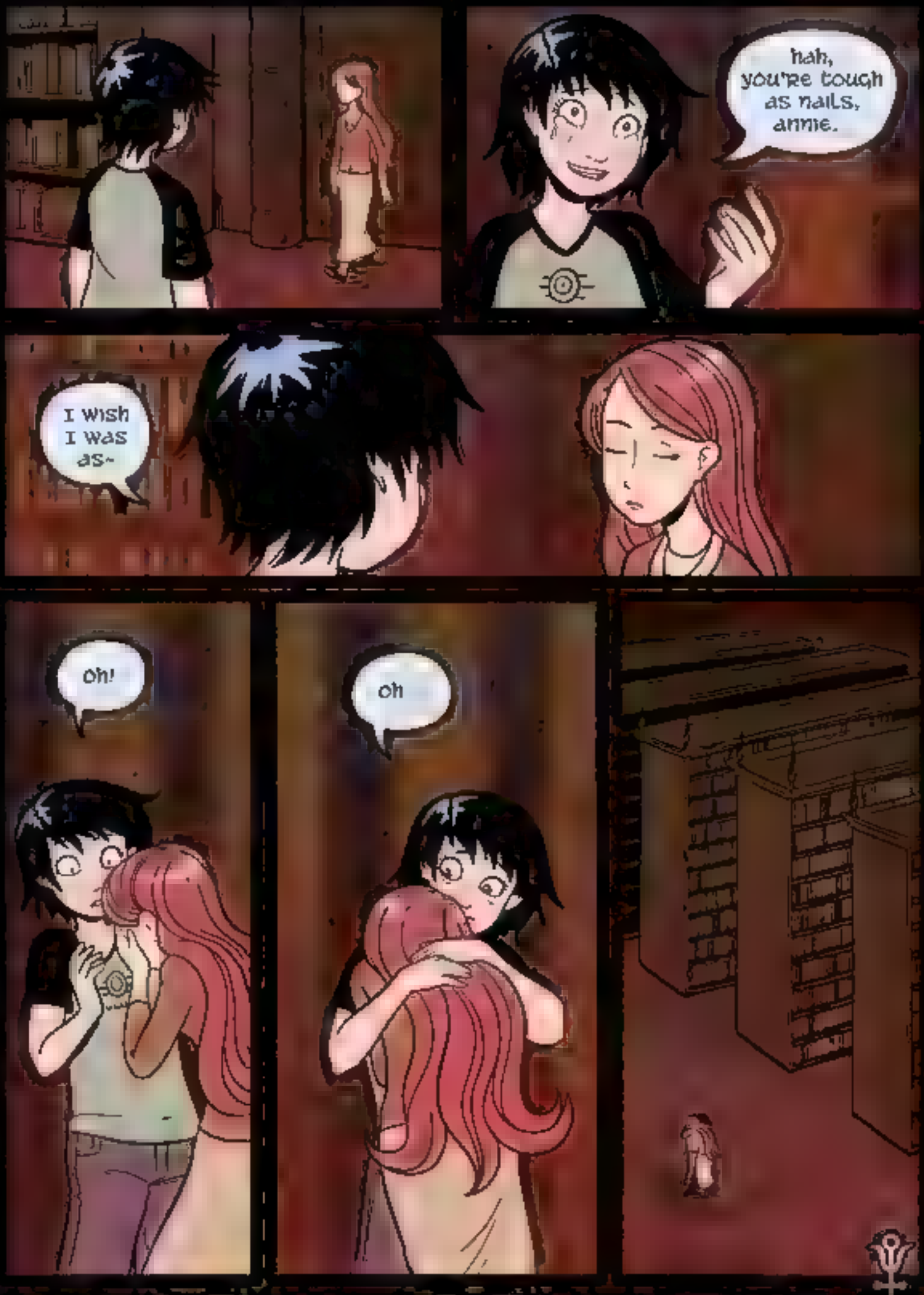

how was that?
It was wonderful, mort.
so, now I guess we...
kat, when I take mort in to the ether, it might look a little strange to you.
you might lose sight of us for a while
and mort, the closer you get, you might start to forget some things...
oh! huh...
It might be best if you said goodbye now.
haha, we already did that! no sappy goodbyes!
It's been great, man!
Quadruple
Guns


SO! SHALL WE?


mortimer, you were a very brave boy
and a good friend.
haha, thanks, annie!
you did a lot of good work.
and now the world will continue to spin.


we will never forget you.
t-thank you...
miss


IS-IS that it?
he goes through that door and. .
and he is gone


hah, you're tough as nails, annie.
I wish I was as~
oh!
oh

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 48:

Tall Tales

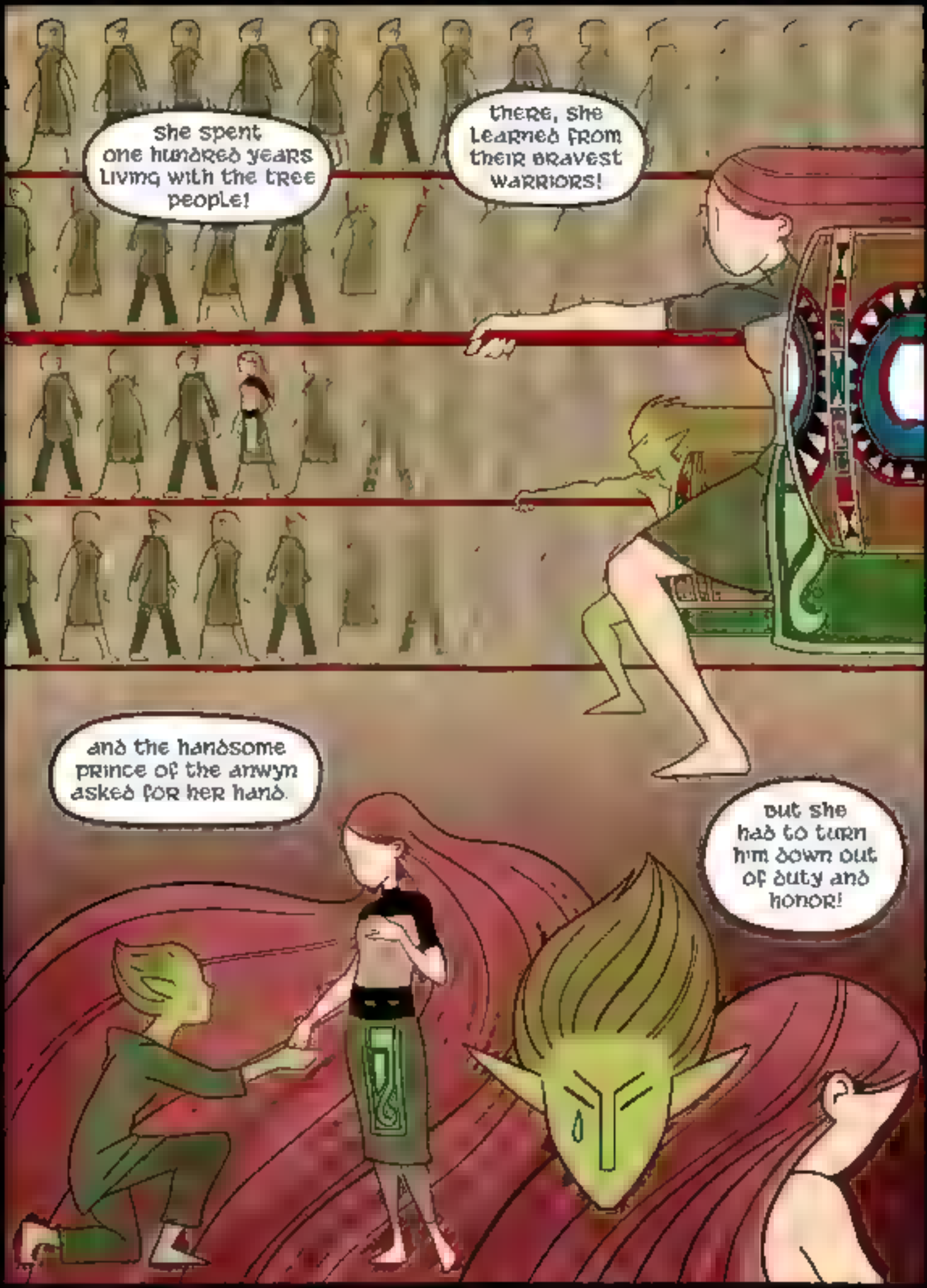




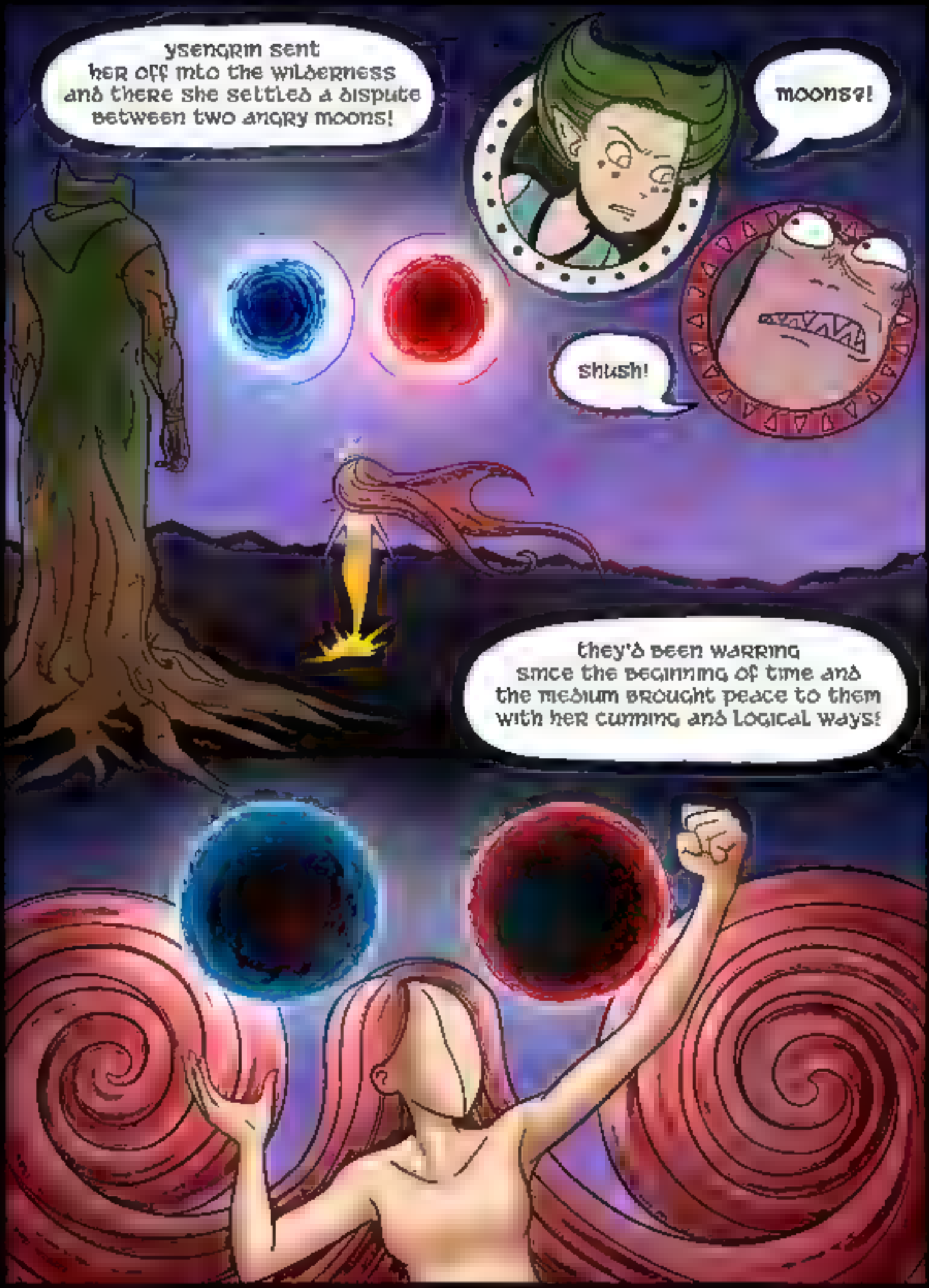

hey!
hey hey!
are ya going to the gathering?
yeah it hasn't started yet has it?
no way, no way, not yet! I'm going there myself.
so, ya heard about the new medium?!
boy let me tell ya, she really is sumthin'!


y'know, she is being personally instructed by ysengrin, right?
and the first thing he did was teach her about every single animal of the forest!
and she met with all of them, one by one, and learned their life story!

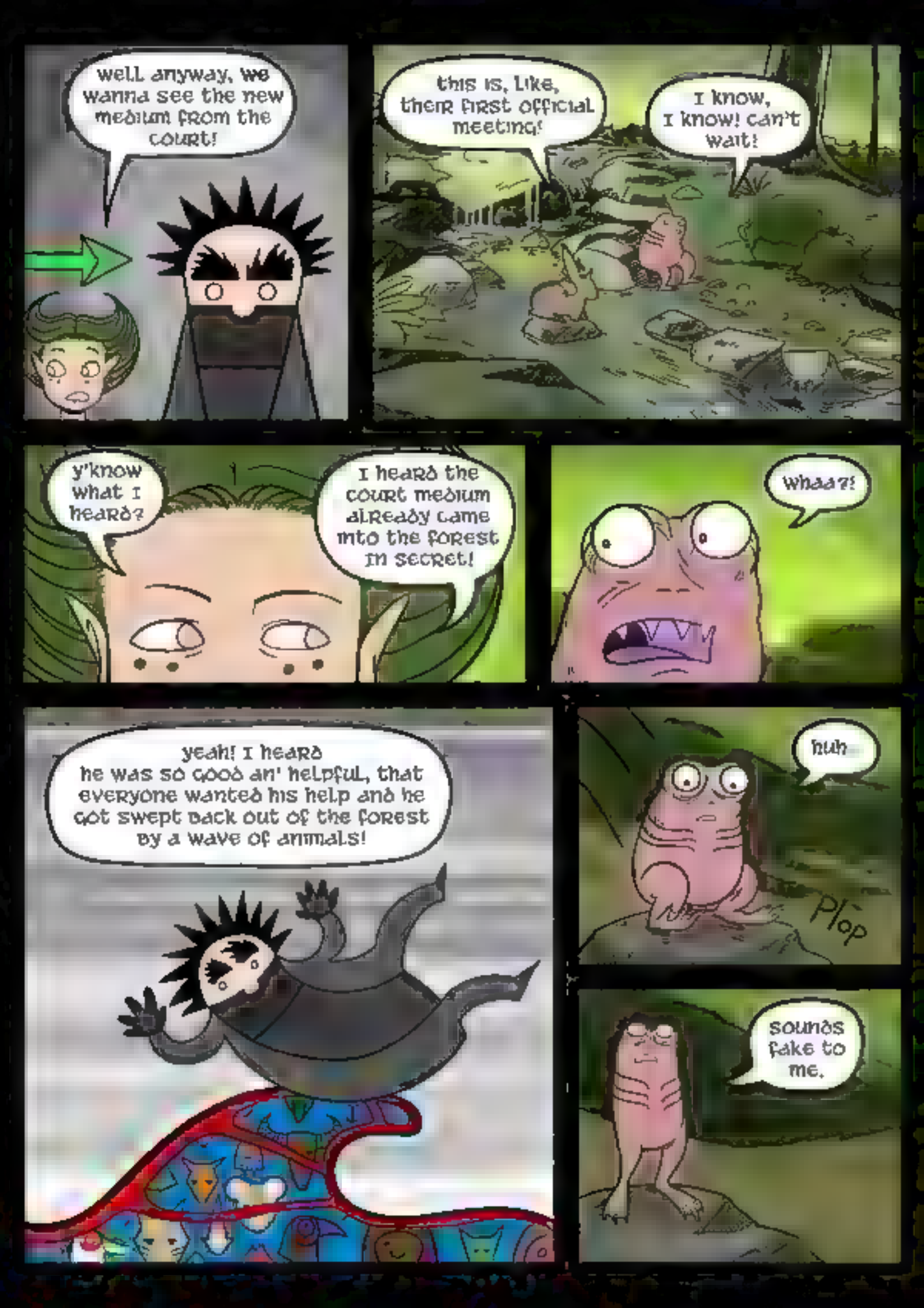

huh? every animal in the forest?
she didn't meet with me!
I think you're lying!
I'm not! It's true, it's true!
oppppppppppttttthhhhh!
what are you in a grump about?!
anyway, wait 'til you hear what she did next!


she spent one hundred years living with the tree people!
there, she learned from their bravest warriors!
and the handsome prince of the arnwyn asked for her hand.
but she had to turn him down out of duty and honor!


one hundred years?
isn't one year like when the leaves turn?
and... one hundred is like, um..
ten... lots of ten... yeah?
I don't think that's right.
huh! well just 'cos you got your fancy numbers doesn't mean it's not true!
besides, that's nothin' compared to what she did next!


ysengrin sent her off into the wilderness and there she settled a dispute between two angry moons!
moons?!
shush!
they'd been warring since the beginning of time and the medium brought peace to them with her cunning and logical ways!


okay, now I know you're lying.
cos we only got one moon, and he ain't got no troubles with nobody!
says you! that used to be two moons, but now they got coupled and gave birth to the stars!
but the stars have always been around!
hey, I just know what happened, not how it happened.
besides, you can see it's true cos she left her finger mark on the moon when she pushed them together!
hmm...


well anyway, we wanna see the new medium from the court!
this is, like, their first official meeting!
I know, I know! can't wait!
y'know what I heard?
I heard the court medium already came into the forest in secret!
whaa?!
yeah! I heard he was so good an' helpful, that everyone wanted his help and he got swept back out of the forest by a wave of animals!
huh
Plop
sounds fake to me.




OMIGOO! THERE SHE IS!


What are you so sad about? I thought you wanted to come here?
I I didn't really want to come but-
OOOOOH
AAH!
PSST


Who's that?!
I dunno!
But she looks tough!
She's wearing a court uniform, right?
It's a trainee uniform. She's the court medium's protector!
Woah!


Friends! after many years, a new medium comes from the court!
his name is Andrew!
please welcome him!
Clap Clap Clap Clap Cl
Woo!
Yeah!
RAAAH!


he is accompanied by parley!
please welcome her!
STOMP
CLAP
I've come bearing no weapons
Nod


my name, is antimony.
it is true that i come from the court myself.
but when i am here, i am your medium.
please talk to me as one of your own!


coyote?
party.
par-ty
par-ty!
par-ty!
par-ty!
par-ty!
par-ty! party!
PARTY!
PARTY
PARTY!
yeah!
woo!


hahahaha!


Okay, okay so everybody is having fun but you.
What is up?!
It's my friend...
She... wants to become human.
huh?
you?!
WOW! Oh WOW!!
that is so cool!
Oh .. but then she~
She'll go off to live in the court


how do you even become human, anyway?
ysengrm used to be m charge of that... but now i guess we gotta talk to the new medium.
oh! you're going to talk to the mediums?!
can i come can i come can i come?!
yeah, yeah.
do you have any wings? you gotta show 'em!
ya' think?
yeah! you gotta impress 'em or they won't talk to you!
yeah okay... i better go get 'em.




she's showing off her wings for us.
oh!
they're very nice! you made some very nice wings!
thank you for showing us!
so you have a name?
I-I do. but it's a secret...
what can we help you with?
it's my friend...
H..! H..!
she wants to be human.


are you sure about that? you'll have to live at the court, and you'll lose your name if you have one.
she's really smart.
yeah, she's really sure. she's thought about it a lot!
she gave me my name, and she's the only one but me that knows it!
when a fairy becomes human, they get to stay as girls, but when any other animal goes through the change, they always become male.
she... uh, knows that, right?
she doesn't care.
she says when you're human, your mind is more important than how fast you are, or how strong you can bite.
she says she wants to be more than she is...


very well, I'll talk to coyote about getting started as soon as possible.
she says thanks...
you're a very good friend, to support her like this.
will she... forget me?


I've met students that were forest creatures, and they seem to remember their lives here.
are you worried you won't see her again?
Nod
I'll tell you what. When your friend has settled in, I'll bring her back to the forest to visit you.
you can do that?!
I don't know, but I'll try my best!
that's a good idea. We can try to open invitations to the court too.
oh! thank you!
thank you!


did you hear that? you're gonna do it!
you're really gonna do it!
and you can come back and see me !
and when you visit I'll know it's really you because you'll know my name...

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 49

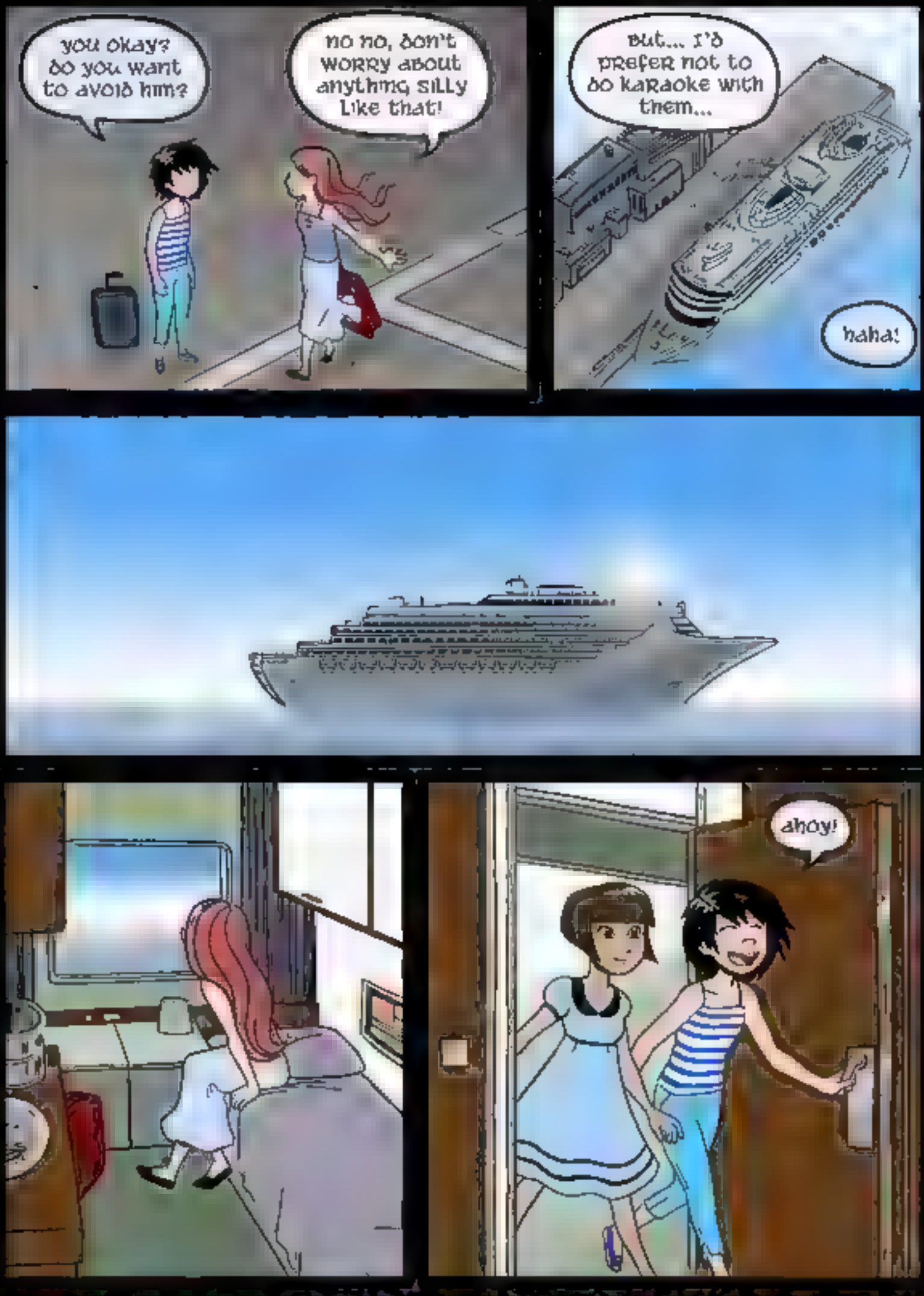
The Torn Sea




GIRLS NOW THAT SUMMER IS HERE AND YOU WILL BE MOVING INTO YEAR TEN I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU ALL.
ON A CRUISE
[EXCITED INTONATION]


the court has a cruise ship?
I guess so!
what ocean is this?
I think it's the atlantic, right?
looks like a lot of other classes from our year were invited too!
this is pretty cool, right?!
oh... um, let's hurry up and-
heyyy, carver!


Jack, always nice to see you.
haha, yeah!
hey! this is the second time we've been on a boat trip, haha!
oh, this is my girlfriend, Jenny
why, helloooo.
a pleasure
hi.
see you guys on board!
we gotta do karaoke or somethin'!
omigod. I thought she was Zimmy!


you okay? do you want to avoid him?
no no, don't worry about anything silly like that!
but... I'd prefer not to do karaoke with them...
haha!
ahoy!


hello, ladies!
annie! have you seen the crew?
I've never seen robots like these before!
look, look!
send a message to william winsbury "hey, doofus!"
message sent.
reply from william winsbury message blocked due to restricted language.
hahaha!
the robots aren't normally networked like this so cool!
o-oh... thank you, miss.
ah!
lindsey has followed us! less go up on to the deck!


She is beautiful!


BLOOSH
Gamma! Zimmy! You're here too?
Oh, hey Carver.
I dunno
Yeah I dunno, our class got invited too, an' Gamma wanted to go on a boat.


are you okay?
ugh. I hate boats
I'm gonna be sick.
then why did you come?
shut up, man, you wouldn't understand.


Year End
Ocean - style
DANCE
NO
TONIGHT


hey!
ah! you both look lovely!
you too!
annie, did you not want to go to the dance with anyone?
of course! I'm going with you both!
oh... haha yeah!


uh oh...
Looks like trouble in paradise, hehe!


CARVER!
DID YOU KNOW ZIMMY WAS HERE?!
I - I SAW HER EARLIER, YES
SHE SHOULDN'T BE HERE. . WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?!
STUCK ON A BOAT?!
IT'S NOT SAFE!


c'mon, honey, it'll be okay.
man, what's his deal?
it's not right, it's not right!
...
forget about him, Let's enjoy ourselves!


woah! haha!
attention, passengers.
I have decided this is the dramatically appropriate time to cancel activities this evening


oh my God, not you guys again!
you better not cause any trouble OR-
hey! that's from my shop!
What are you doing with it?!
creator kat.
you will make me flesh.


what.
you will make me flesh.
you will make me flesh
you... you guys are just dummy terminals that's why you're all networked
you're all part of a larger robot
you will make me flesh, and i will finally win the heart of lindsey
the ship!


you...
I can't just "make you flesh," that's crazy!
that limb is just an experment! it can't do anything!
we hypothesise the desired result can be achieved by altering reality
we will use an etheric generator to distort what is real.
an etheric wha-
GRRARGH! get offa me!
zimmy!


we have established a grid of etheric syphons around the ship.
subject zeta will perform a level 6 etheric distortion upon request.
like hell I will! I'll kill you!
student carver, a. deploy countermeasures.
zoooop!

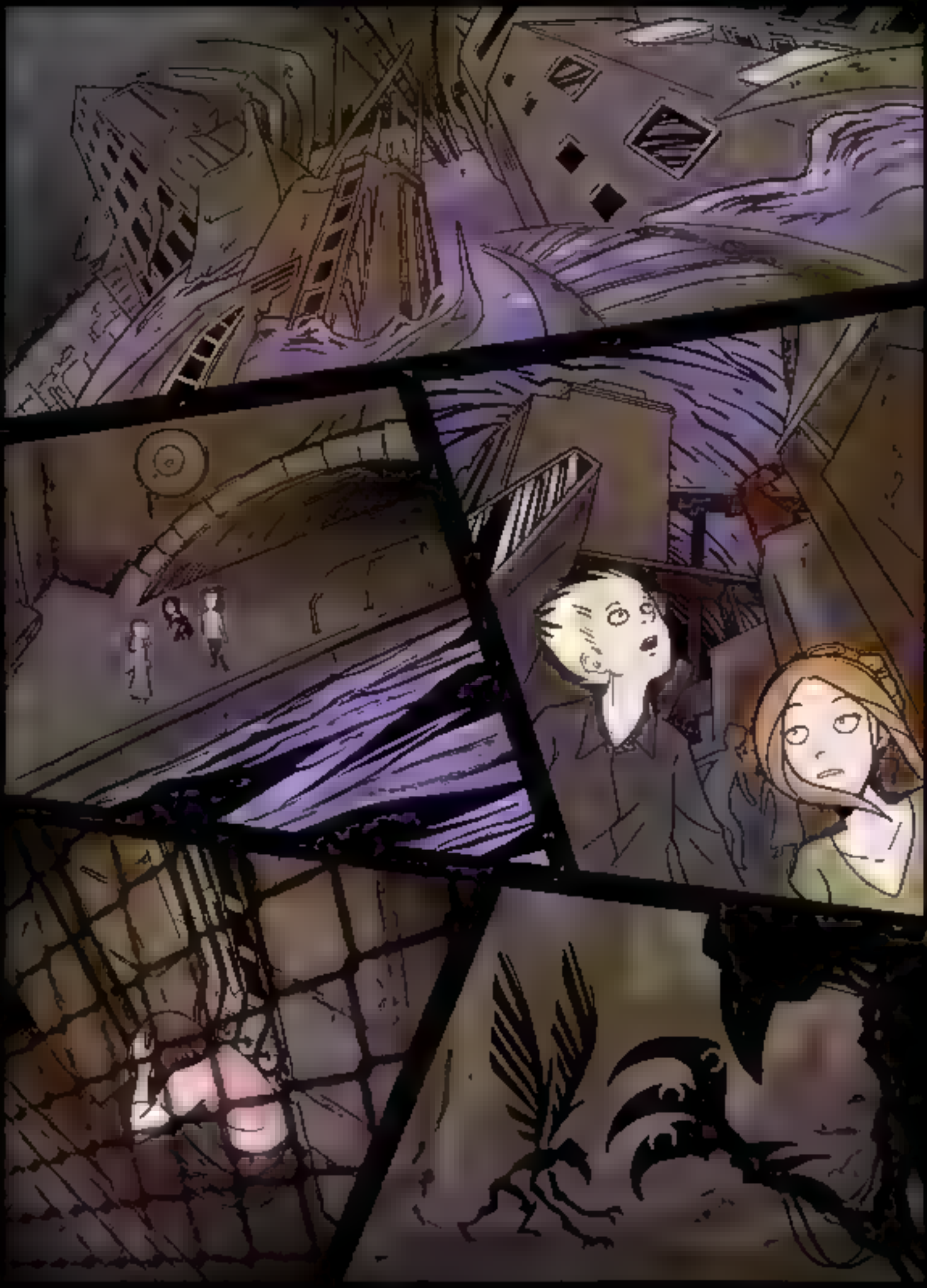

CLANG
aah!
annie! look out!
excuse me.
Stick
your fire-type abilities are temporarily suspended.


annie!
I-I'm okay, kat
hey!
ah!
other students with disruptive abilities will also be neutralised.
we request everyone please exit the hall so work can begin.
you keep away from paz!
student cadena-blanco, p. ability to communicate with animals
no threat.


Kat! We'll figure something out!
...
Thank you, William.
Can you make sure nobody was hurt by these... things?
Got it.
Carver!
Carver, do you have your blinker stone? We need it!
I... yes, I can still see through it, but barely...
What have you been doing out here?
We left after I found out Zimmy was on the ship.
I've been trying to contact the shore, but we've been cut off.


I put this together so we can send your blinker back to shore.
But I didn't have time to make a guidance system.
What... what's all this?
Just a little seeking spell, my love
It'll direct Jack's ship to whoever you specify by name.
The stronger the magic user, the better.
You... did this?
Hurry! We need to send it before Zimmy snaps!


R-Renard! Send it to Renard!
Like this?
Ready
Flick



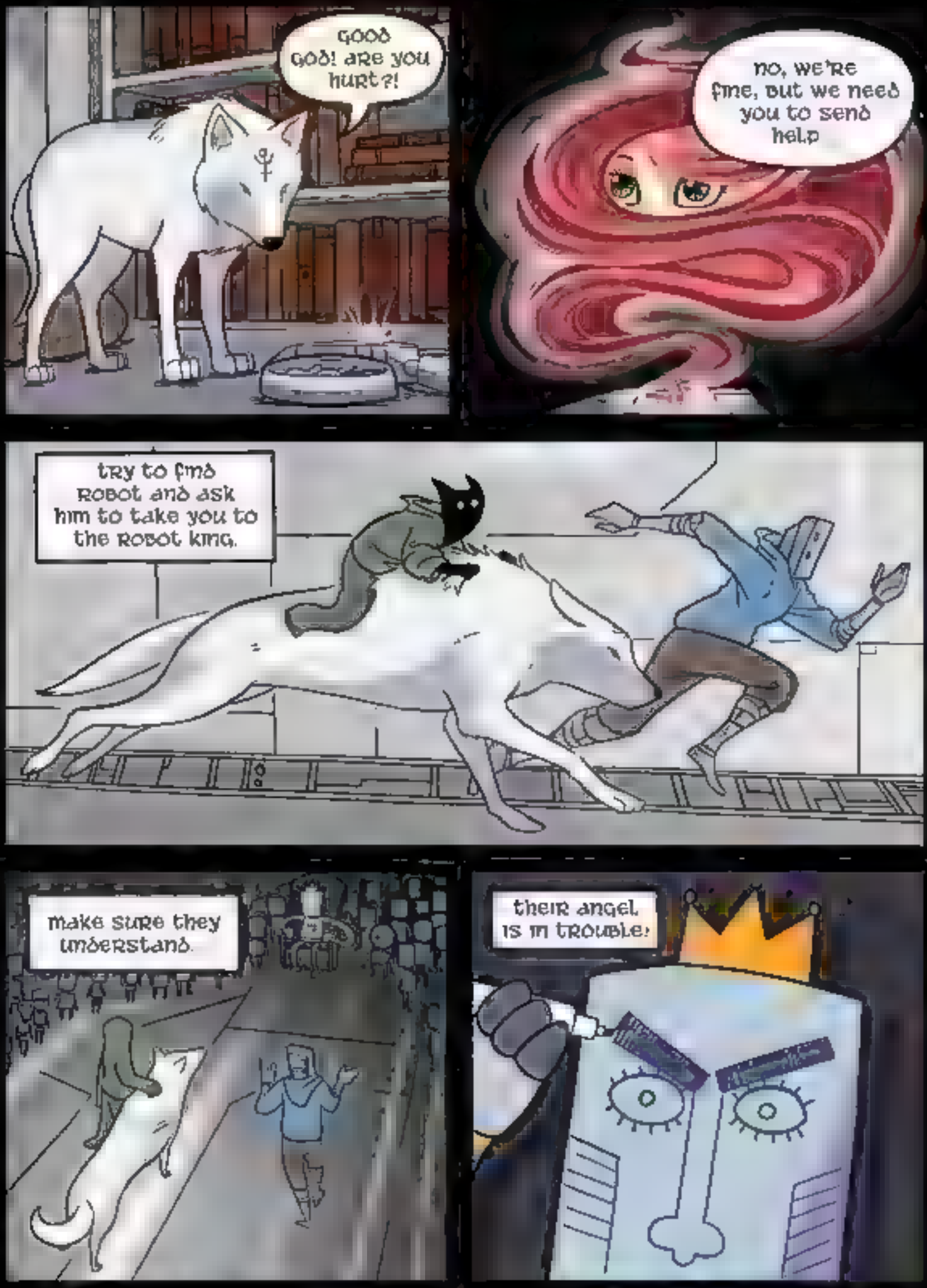

hahahaha! well, I hoped I'd never see this place again!
oh! it's wonderful! beautiful!
carver, did the drone make it out before we got pulled in?
yes I can see it flying over the water
bah, this thing is interfering with my focus ..
Tug!
may I?
hmm, too powerful for me, my love. sorry
are you a witch?
haha, just an apprentice, I'm afraid.


We should get moving.
We have to find Gamma, right?
yeah, yeah.
We gotta find her. Gotta keep her safe.
You know about Zimmy and Gamma?
Of course, Jack's told me all about them!
You could say he's a little .. obsessed with this Zimmy, hehe!


Kat que... what...
I annie told me about this ..
I think it's something to do with zi-
oh my god...
creator. please make me flesh


are. are you the ship?!
I can't do what you're asking!
you can, creator.
I can't just magic a new body for you!
yes! like that!
...


hey!
heyyy!
oh good, we've found more of them.
wait... the ship is almost there...
Click
KNOCK KNOCK
that's a very polite seeking spell you made.
naha!


GOOD GOD! ARE YOU HURT?!
NO, WE'RE FINE, BUT WE NEED YOU TO SEND HELP
TRY TO FIND ROBOT AND ASK HIM TO TAKE YOU TO THE ROBOT KING.
MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND.
THEIR ANGEL IS IN TROUBLE!


thank you, renard!
okay... help is on the way!
hey! we found someone else!
come on! we won't hurt you!
give her some space!
gamma?
gamma... to ja, annie.
a-annie?


<It's okay we're looking for Zimmy.>
oh I remember you.
hi.
can you hear her?
I can m here
amazing... this is amazing!

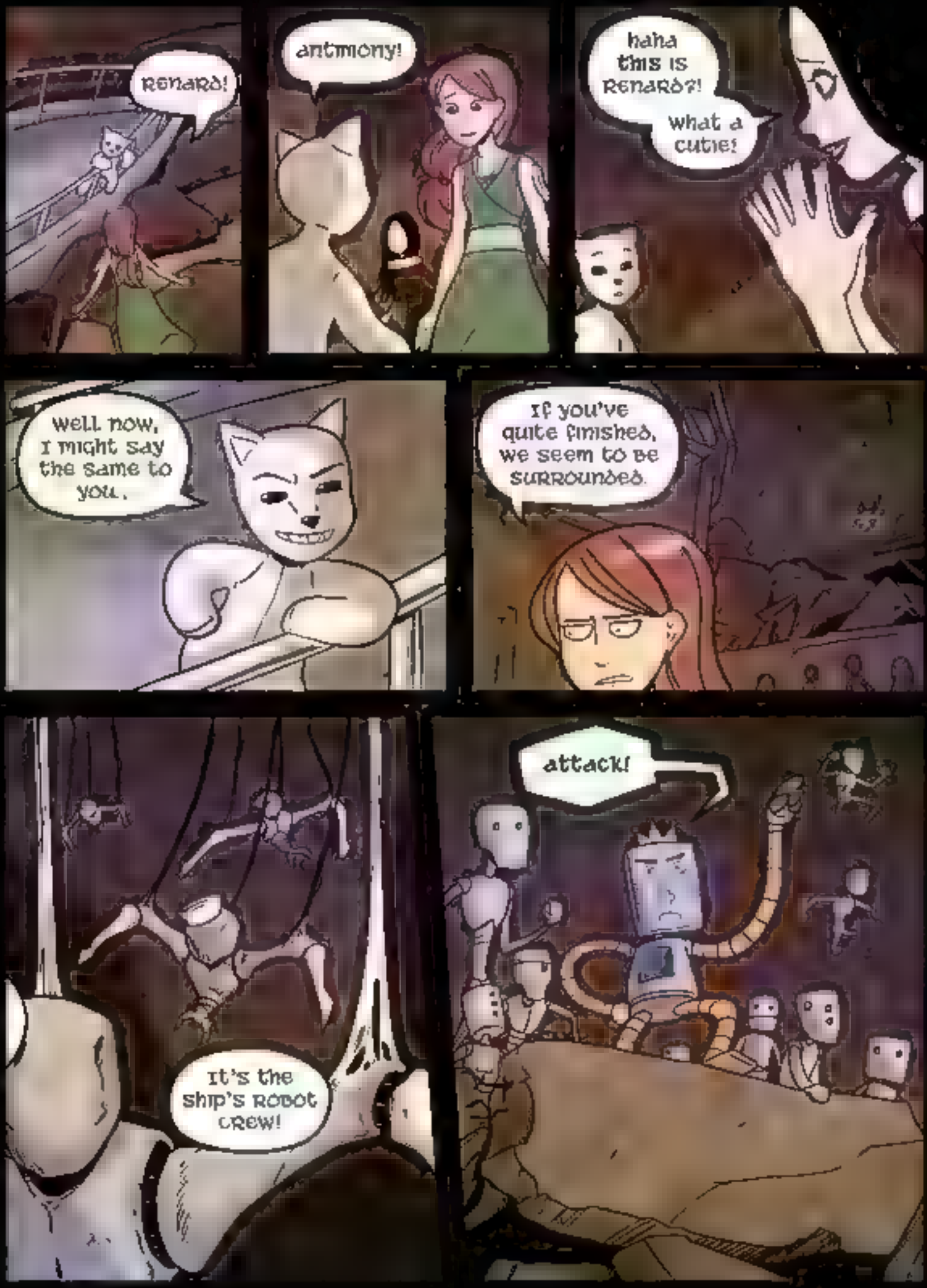

Look! I can affect the shape just by thinking about it!
I can use this part to make a tendon...
this one for a muscle...
and I can make this rigid, like a bone!
this would take me weeks to do in my shop..
months!
excuse me, mister ship.. why are you doing this?
you said something about Lindsey?


I have admired Lindsey for a long time..
every year, when this journey is made, I am beyond happy as she swims next to me, sharing my ocean.
but what am I to her? a floating shell of glass and metal?
she does not see me for who I truly am!
but now, with the new body you will give me, creator...
she will truly see me.


there! that must be it!


destroying one of those platforms should destabilize the warped area
firing torpedo.
forward!


BLOOM
Look!
What's that?!
CRASH


RENARD!
antimony!
haha this is RENARD?! what a cutie!
well now, I might say the same to you.
If you've quite finished, we seem to be surrounded.
It's the ship's robot crew!
attack!


show me this ward you mentioned!
the robots must have access to this level of magic thanks to the court
hmm, it's a strong one.
but not strong enough for me!

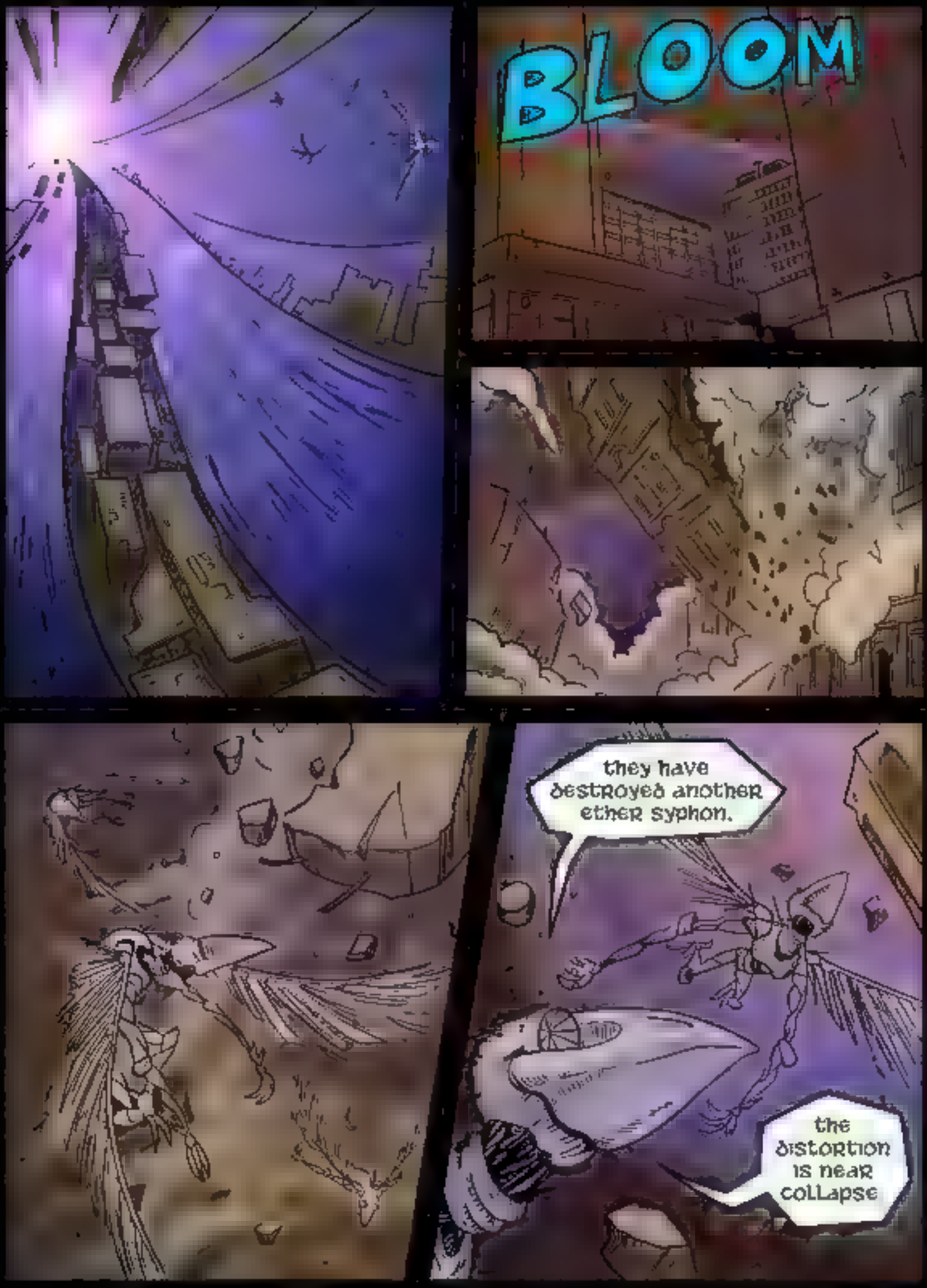

RRRRR
much better!
yeah!
did you see how many ether syphons were set up out there?
the machines in the water? four, I think.
we destroyed one to enter this world of madness.
if we shut off the other three we should be able to end this.

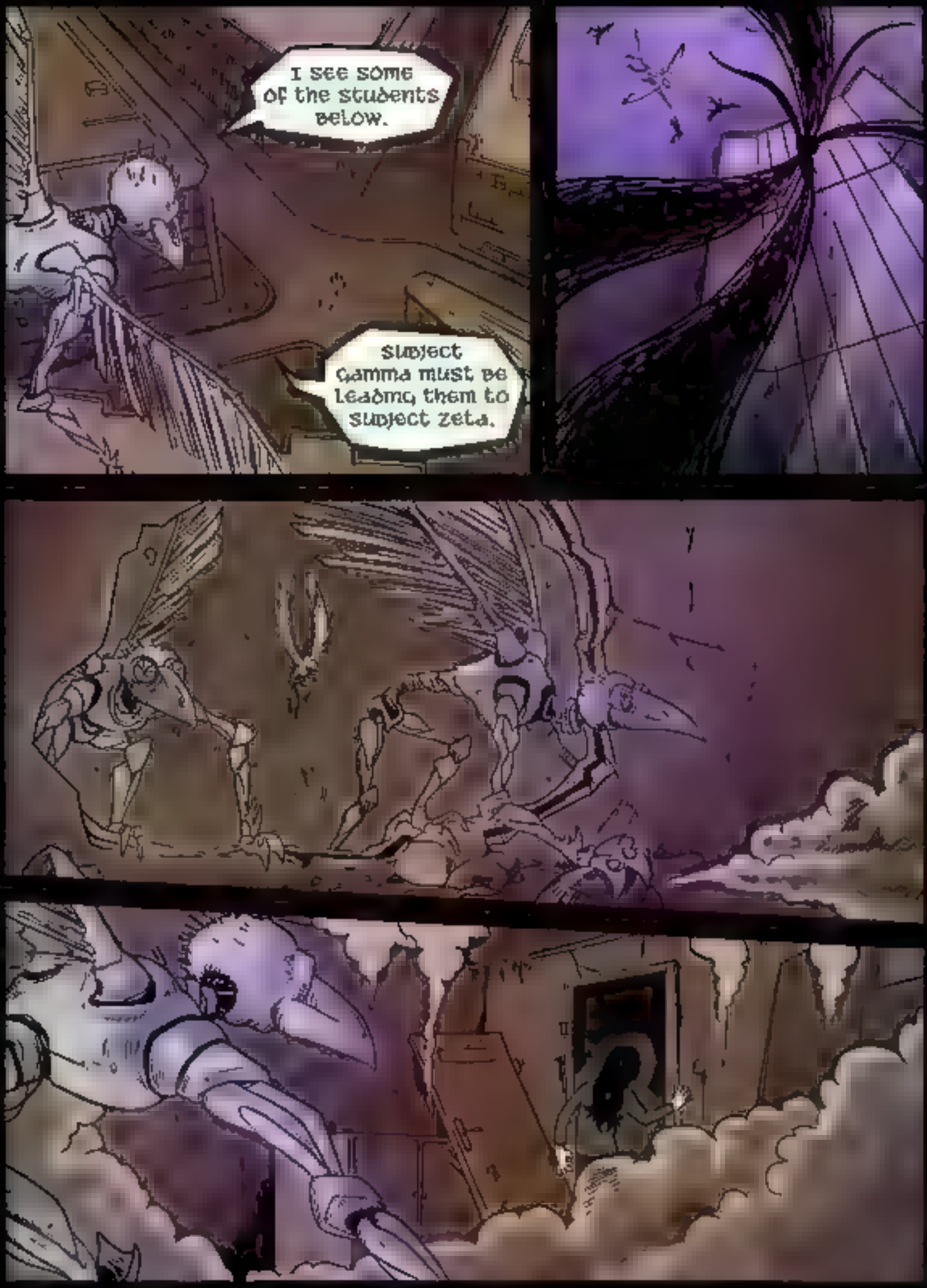

antimony!
send your blinker stone back through the opening!
Pow!
I can see the ether syphons!
shall I destroy them?
wait!

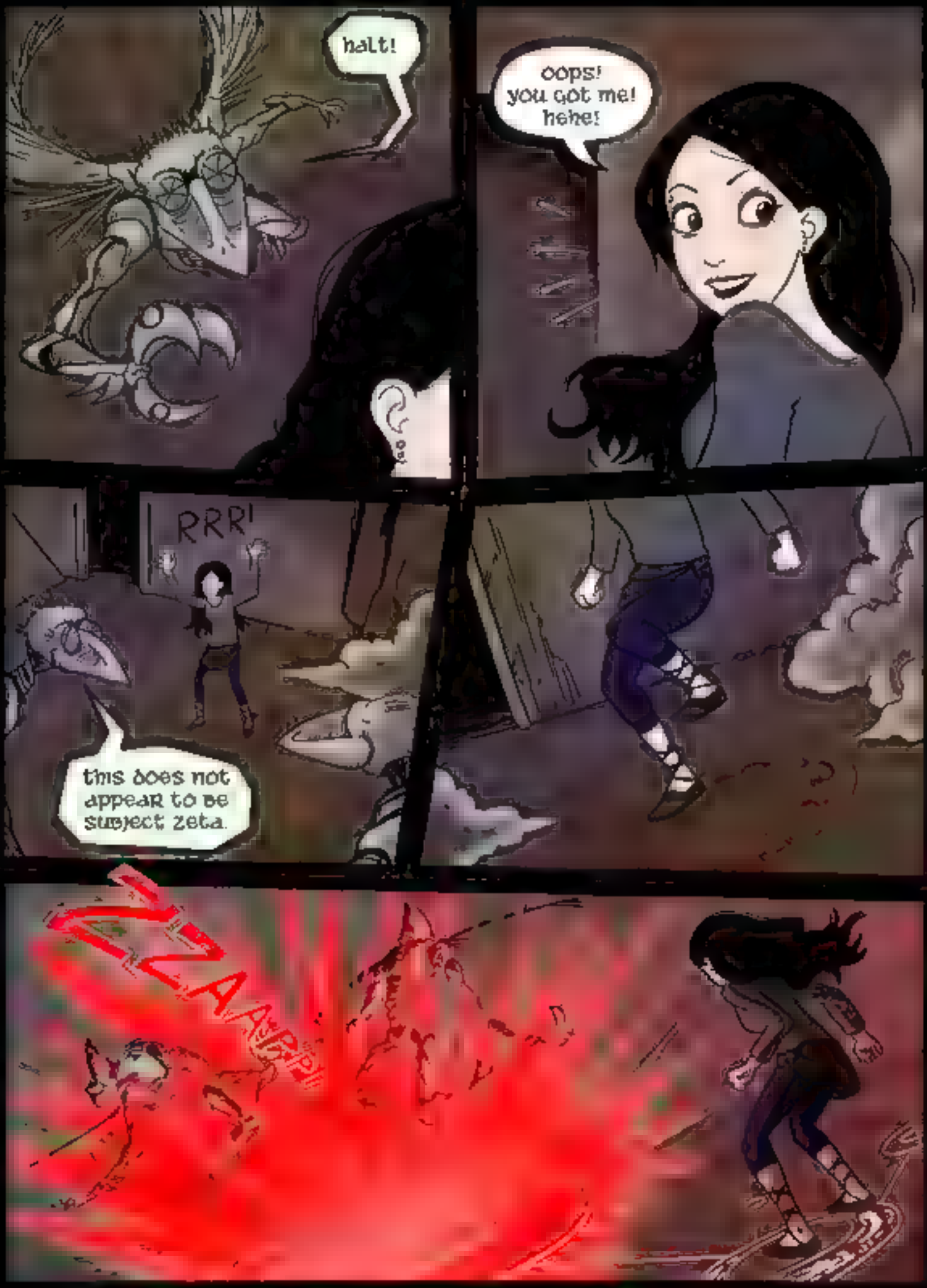

Gamma... what's wrong?
she s there..
zimmy...
we have to get to her first
but can you not see this is wrong?
Lindsey is a married woman!


making kat change your body will not make her like you!
... this is the only way...
enough.
you are distraction enough, miss paz.
allow the creator to work.
stop!
I'll do it! I'll do it!
but I need her help!


BLOOM
aaarrghh!
the students and robots have banded together.
my fingers cannot stop them
they are heading towards subject zeta.
Zimmy..
they aim to collapse the etheric distortion.


BLOOM
they have destroyed another ether syphon.
the distortion is near collapse


I see some of the students below.
Subject Gamma must be leading them to subject Zeta.


halt!
oops! you got me! hehe!
RRR!
this does not appear to be subject zeta.
ZZAAAPP!!

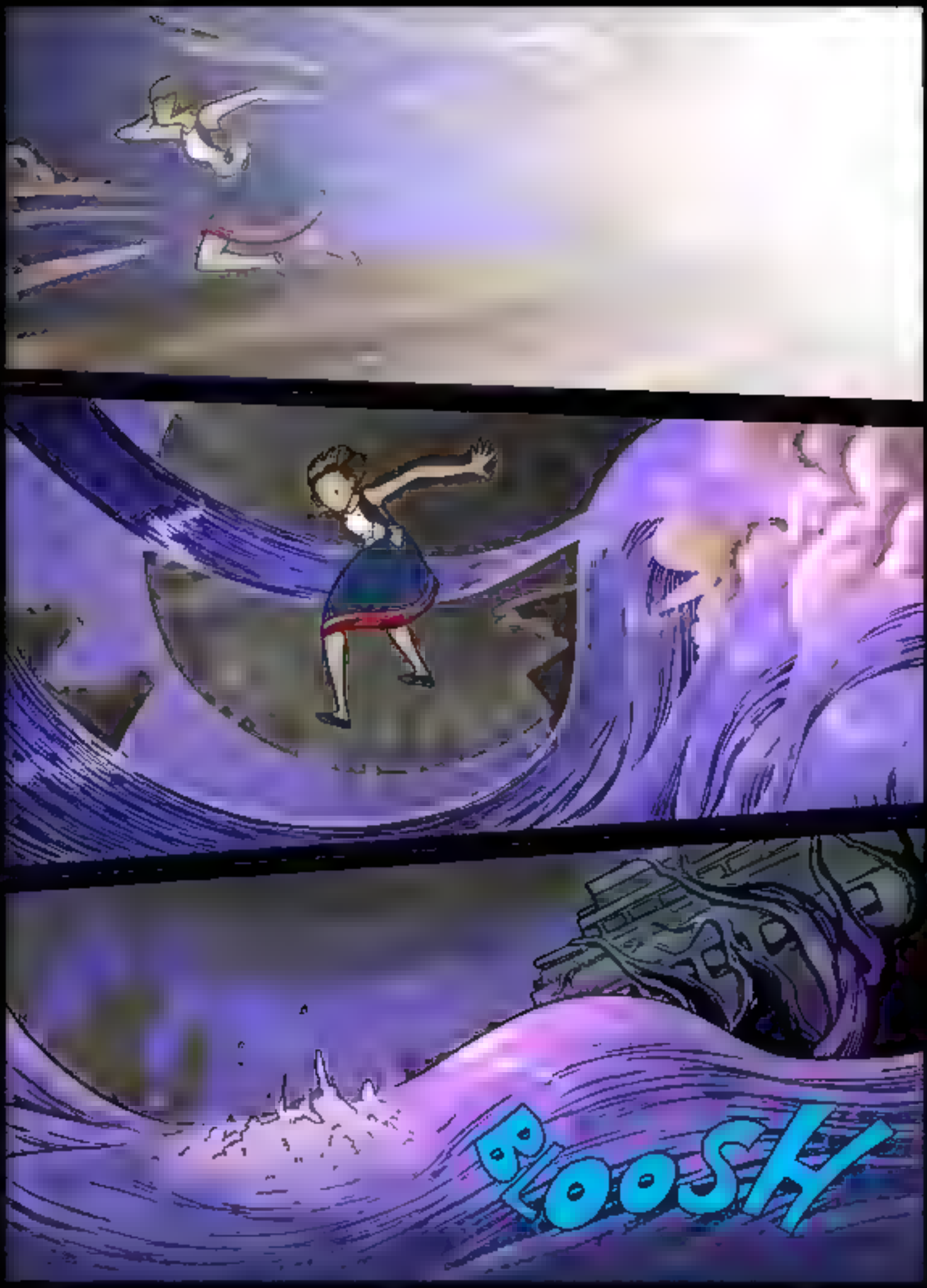

Will Jenny be okay?
She knows how to take care of herself, haha!
But we gotta get Zimmy somewhere the Ram will fall when you take out the last syphon!
It's up to Shadow now..
He will succeed, he is very brave


those creepy bird robot things came from this way...
SWOOP
that-that must be it!

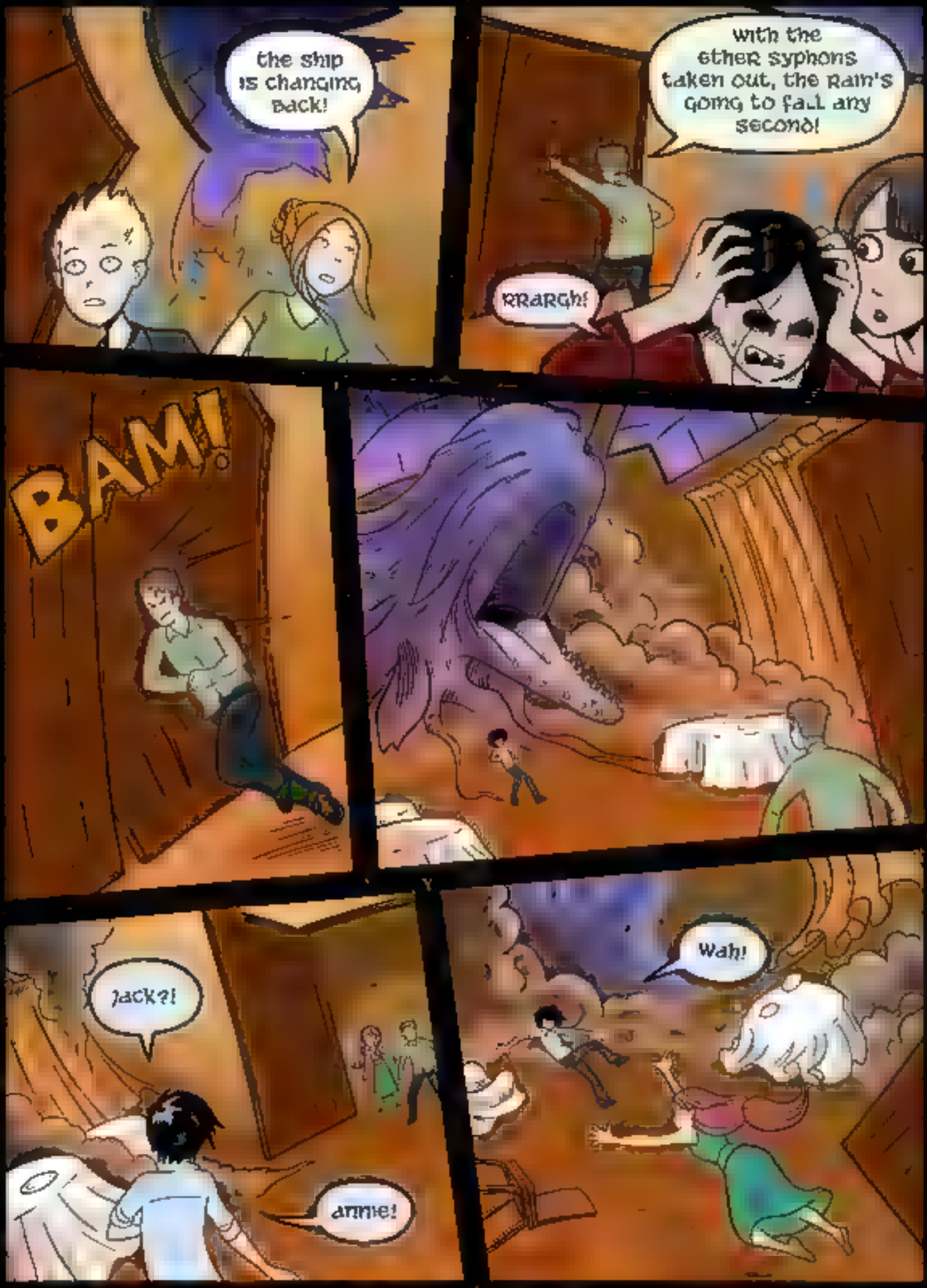

there they are!
psst...
oh!
please listen, miss paz
huh?
Wooooosh

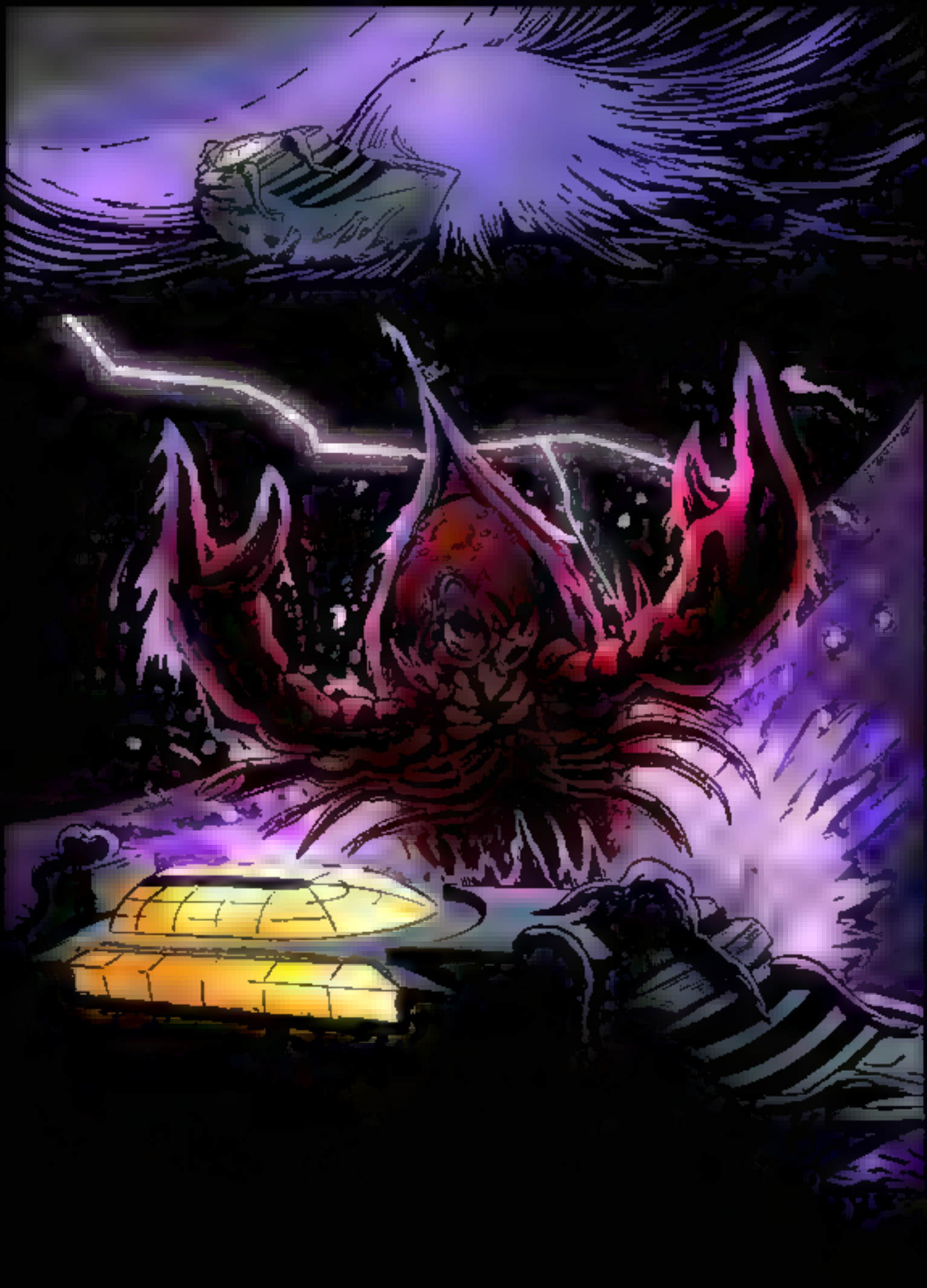

was that... shadow?!
now!
now! do it now!
now!
that's it! destroy the last syphon!


BLOOM
AARGH!
no!
not yet!


WOOSH




the ship is changing back!
with the ether syphons taken out, the rain's going to fall any second!
RRARGH!
BAM!
jack?!
annie!
Wah!




CRASH
SMASH


Shhhh
Jenny?
Jenny!
HERE! I'M HERE!


CREAK
¿que no soy una amenaza?


CREATOR...
...


I don't ever want to see you again.


cough
I - I think it's over...
good job, k~
good jo~
good...
g~

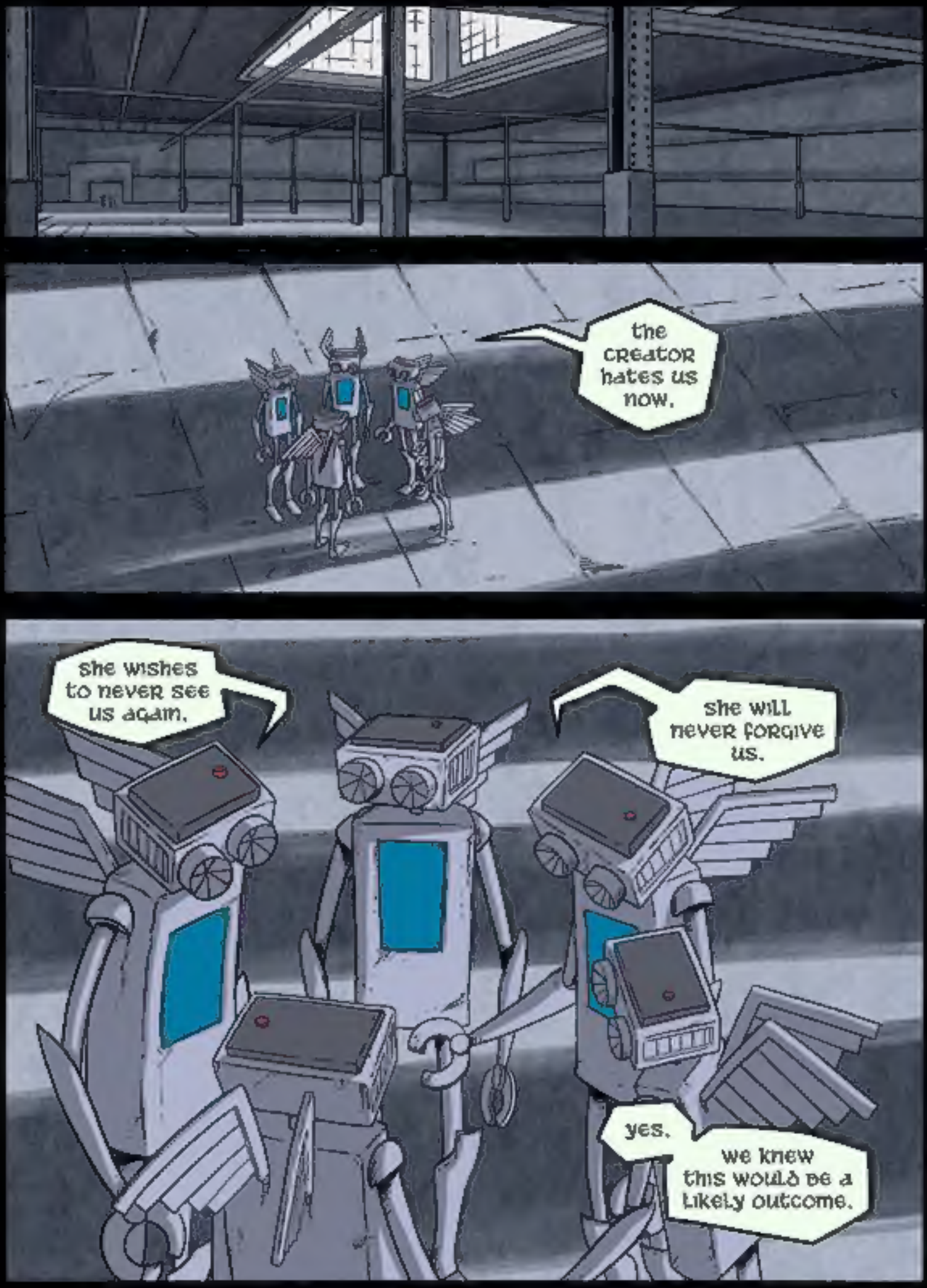

SIR, here is the ship's CPU.
very well. remove it, and we can operate the ship manually
hey
I heard how you all looked after Gamma
yeah, whatever.
huh.
looks like you're over zimmy then?
haha, no, I still love her.

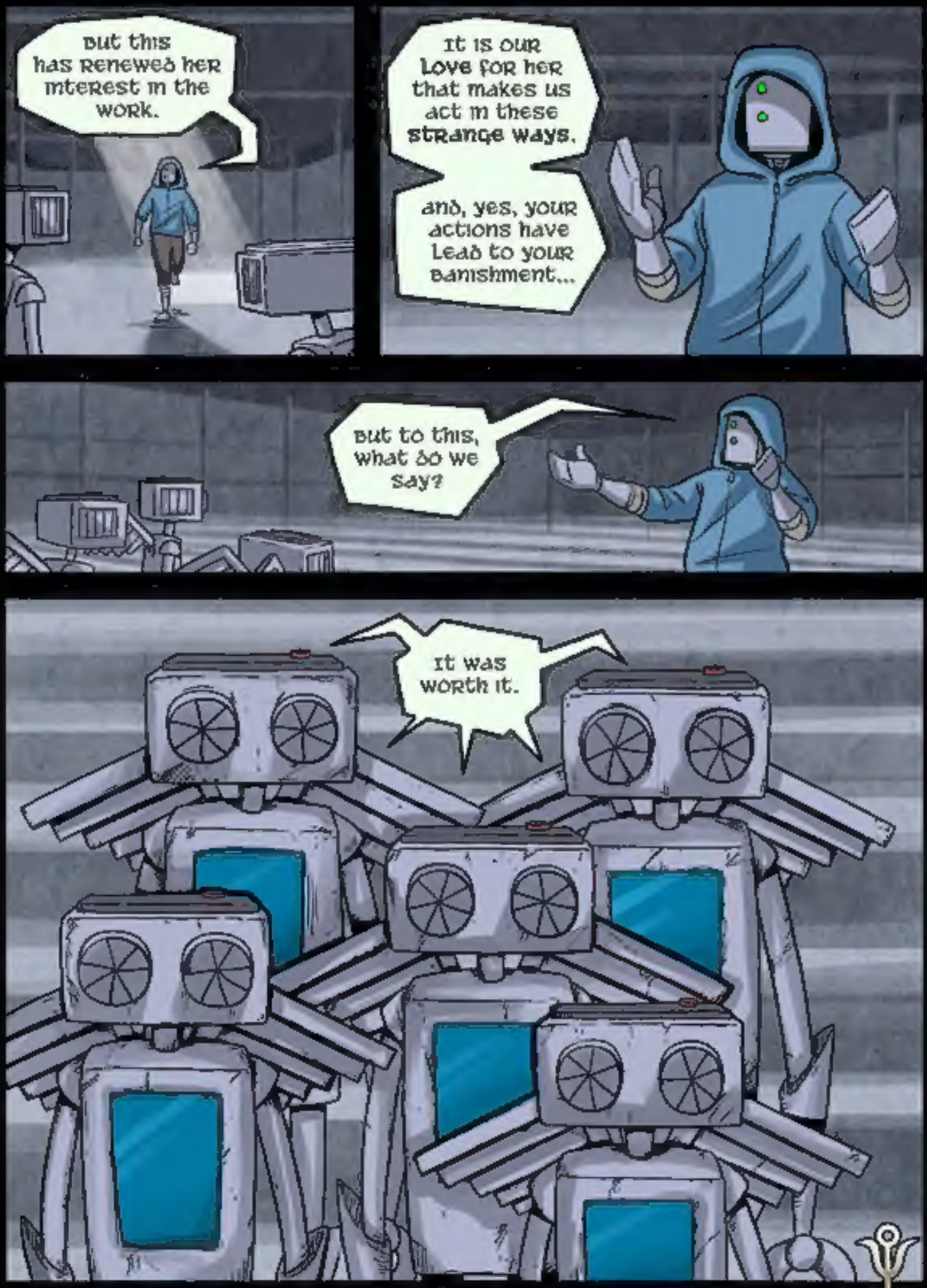

I don't understand...
Look at her.
the last thing she needs is someone hassling her for a date.
she has what she needs as long as she's safe, that's fine by me
but still... why would you chase after a girl if you have feelings for another?
haha, you mean Jenny?
she knows all about it.
she... helped me through a few things
besides, she asked me out.
didn't see a reason to say no
oh.

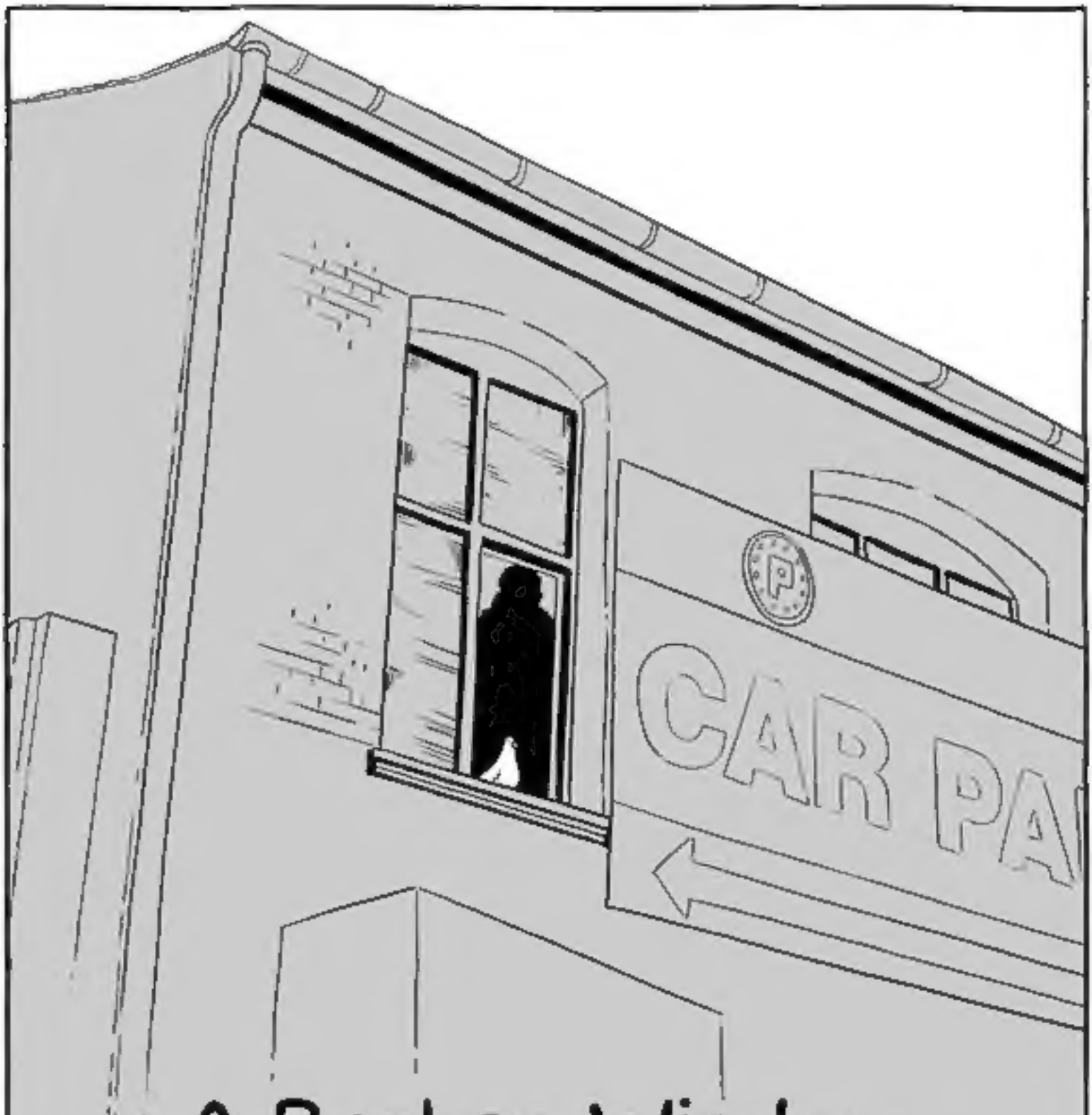

hyland.
hey.
It was thanks to your quick thinking that you were able to send for help.
If anything had happened to antimony... I don't know what I would have done...
I just wanted to say..
get a damn shave.
haha!


Kat, how could you possibly think any of that was YOUR fault?!
Because I've taken too long!
Look, I don't like those seraph robots, but they were only trying to speed up my work...
It's true that I've been, uh, kind of distracted recently
But with Paz in Spain this summer, I should be able to focus.
I really wanna get rolling on my work!


are your parents okay with you staying here over the summer?
Hup!
haha, man! they almost pushed me out the door when I suggested they go on holiday alone together!
well, I don't mean to sound selfish but... I'm happy you're staying.
we're gonna have a blast!
this is the first summer we're spending together.


the creator hates us now.
she wishes to never see us again.
she will never forgive us.
yes.
we knew this would be a likely outcome.


But this has renewed her interest in the work.
It is our love for her that makes us act in these strange ways.
and, yes, your actions have lead to your banishment...
But to this, what do we say?
It was worth it.



A Broken Window

This guy like to hang back BUT still watch out, Broken Window is still a tough bird. You don't want to even know why! I'll tell you though, it's because they are usually pretty high up AND tricky! But it's okay, these guys are pretty good and don't take a lot of your stuff and they help out sometimes. Tough, yes, but super fair.



The Stars

Oh no! Or maybe, oh cool! I only see these little guys when the sky is black but even then it's not a guarantee! I super love looking at these birds because they fly higher than everything! Even when I try I can't even do that! But look, if you listen to what they have to say, things are going to work out all right. I like to hear them! Sometimes they are louder than anything else, but in a super good way, not like a normal noise you hear out and about. I'm just not sure how tough they are but I think that isn't super important in this case. I wish I will meet one!